

A  
**DESCRIPTION**  
 OF  
**ENGLAND AND WALES.**

CONTAINING

A particular Account of each County,

WITH ITS

ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, SITUATION, FIGURE, EXTENT, CLIMATE, RIVERS, LAKES, MINERAL WA- TERS,	SOILS, FOSSILS, CAVERNS, PLANTS and MI- NERALS, AGRICULTURE, CIVIL and ECCLE- SIASTICAL DI- VISIONS, CITIES,	TOWNS, PALACES, SEATS, CORPORATIONS, MARKETS, FAIRS, MANUFACTURES, TRADE, SIEGES, BATTLES,
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AND THE

LIVES of the illustrious MEN each COUNTY has  
 produced.

Embellished with two hundred and forty COPPER PLATES,  
 OF

PALACES, CASTLES, CATHEDRALS;  
 THE

Ruins of ROMAN and SAXON BUILDINGS;

AND OF

ABBEYS, MONASTERIES, and other RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

Besides a Variety of CURS of

URNS, INSCRIPTIONS, and other ANTIQUITIES.

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MDCC LXIX.







A  
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RADNORSHIRE.



HIS county derives its name from Radnor the county town, but is called by the Welch Sir Vaes-ived : it is an inland county of South-Wales, bounded by Herefordshire, and a part of Shropshire, on the east ; by Brecknockshire on the south ; by the same county, and part of Cardiganshire, on the west ; and by Montgomeryshire and Shropshire on the north. It is twenty-four miles in length from east to west, and twenty-two in breadth from north to south, and about ninety miles in circumference. Radnor, the county town, is seated at the distance of a hundred and fifty miles west-north-west of London.

This county was, in the time of the Romans, a part of the country inhabited by the Silures, and

contains several barrows, and most of the mountains have carns, or large heaps of stones, probably intended as memorials of the dead. These heaps of stones were raised by the Romans for sepulchral monuments, as we find by Homer's description of Hector's funeral; but after the planting of Christianity, they became so detestable, from their being appropriated only to malefactors, that the most passionate wish a man could express to his enemy, was, that a carn might be his monument. Hence the Welch call the worst traitors Carn-vradwyr, and notorious thieves Carn Lhadron. One of the most celebrated remains of antiquity in this county, is part of a work, called by the Welch Klawdh Offa, or Offa's dyke, from its having been cut by Offa, king of Mercia, as a boundary between the English Saxons, and the ancient Britons. This dyke may be traced from the mouth of the river Wye, to that of the Dee, through the whole extent of this county.

The principal rivers of this county are the Wye, the coasts of which have been already mentioned among the rivers of Gloucestershire, the Temd, and the Ithon, or Ython. The Temd rises in the north part of this county, and running eastward, separates Radnorshire from Shropshire, and after dividing Shropshire from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, falls into the Severn, near the city of Worcester. The Ithon rising in a chain of vast mountains, in the northern extremity of the county, runs south and south-west, and at length falls into the Wye, about four miles to the north by west of Bealt in Brecknockshire. The less considerable rivers, are the Clowdok, the Dulas, and the Cameran; all which discharge themselves into the Ithon.

At

At Llandrindod, in this county, are very remarkable mineral waters; these are the saline pump water, the sulphurious water, and the chalybeate rock water.

The saline purging water, is called upon the spot the Pump-water, and from various experiments it appears to contain a neutral salt like native borax, a small quantity of bitumen, and an etherial volatile, mineral spirit, and a mineral oil. It is excellent in all diseases of the skin, and in such disorders as proceed from corrupt humours; but if the disease be obstinate, it requires some time to cure it radically. Persons troubled with the scurvy, must use the water both as a purgative and alterative; and for the last a pint and a half should be taken at three doses, in the morning before breakfast. As a purge, half a pint must be drank at a time, till it begins to work. In diseases of the skin, the patient must bathe frequently, and wash the parts affected with the water, and particularly in the leprosy, so much water must be drank, as to cause two or three motions every day; to which must be joined bathing twice a week in a warm bath, made with equal quantities of the pump and sulphurious waters. In the gravel, the patient must drink so much as will give him two or three stools, and when the gravel is discharged by this means, the patient must drink every morning half a pint of the rock water, half a pint of the pump-water, and half the quantity going to bed.

The sulphurious water, commonly called the black stinking water, has its name from the strong smell, and the blackness of the channel through which it passes. It smells like the washings of a foul gun, and has the strongest smell in rainy weather. From various experiments, it appears to contain etherial, volatile, mineral spirits, a



small quantity of vitriolic acid, a mineral unctuous mucus, a fine mineral oil, a subtile crocus, a perfect sulphur, and a neutral salt, of a briny calcarious nature. It is of great use in all cases, where bathing is proper, made into a luke warm bath. It is excellent in benumbed limbs, in wasting of the flesh, and in nervous disorders; as also in venereal complaints, old sores, tetters, and in all diseases of the skin; as well as in the stone, gravel, rheumatism, and gouty distempers. Taken inwardly, and used outwardly, it cures the king's evil, and is an excellent absorbent, insomuch, that it is efficacious in soreness of the stomach, obstructions of the liver, and in the jaundice. It is also good in contractions and weakneses of the limbs, and in broken constitutions from hard drinking. The dose cannot be determined, and therefore it is best to begin with drinking from a pint to a quart in a morning, that is, about half a pint at a time, with short intervals between the draughts: the quantity may be encreased to as much as the constitution will bear, that is, as much as will sit easy on the stomach, and pass off well.

The rock water is so called, because it issues out of a rock, and a glass of it taken up in a clear warm day, is as bright as crystal; but after it has stood some time, it changes to a pearl colour. While it continues clear it has a strong chalybeate taste and smell; but they forsake it as it changes colour: at the spring head, it turns to a deep purple with powder of galls, and becomes hot with oil of vitriol. However, it will not curdle milk; but with oil of tartar it becomes as white as milk, which afterwards changes to a yellowish green. It preserves its transparency with acid spirits; but with fugar of lead it turns first milk white, and at length lets fall a yellowish grey sediment, from a quart of water, which,  
after

after it has been analysed, is found to contain about fifteen grains of crocus of iron, and about five of the bituminous mucilage of iron. From hence, and various other experiments, it is concluded, that this water contains iron, salt, sulphur and vitriol. It is good in all chronic distempers proceeding from a laxity of the fibres; and particularly in scorbutic eruptions and weaknesses of the nerves, and disorders proceeding from the brain. It is also efficacious in obstinate agues, obstructions of the bowels, slow nervous fevers, and in all female disorders.

The air of this county is cold and piercing. The soil of the northern and western parts is but indifferent, they abounding in rocks and mountains, which, however, are well provided with wood, and afford pasture for sheep. The eastern and southern parts are well cultivated, and are pretty fruitful in corn. Radnorshire is watered with rivulets, has some lakes, and the rivers afford plenty of salmon and other fish. It does not appear that this county has any manufactures.

Radnorshire is divided into six hundreds, but contains only three market-towns, viz. Radnor, Knighton, and Prestein, and sends only two members to parliament, that is, one knight of the shire, and one burghers for the borough of Radnor.

On entering this county from Kington in Herefordshire, we come to RADNOR, which is also called NEW-RADNOR, to distinguish it from a small village to the south-east, called Old Radnor. It is seated near the spring head of the river Somergil, in a pleasant valley, at the foot of a hill called the Forest of Radnor, which feeds a great number of cattle, and particularly sheep. It was formerly defended by walls and a castle,

which last being laid in ashes by Owen Glendower, the town daily decayed. This town was an ancient borough by prescription till the reign of queen Elizabeth, who granted it a charter with many privileges, together with a manor which contains eleven large townships, and a jurisdiction extending ten or twelve miles. It is governed by a recorder, two aldermen, and twenty-five burgesses; out of whom the recorder, bailiff, and two aldermen, are annually chosen. The member of parliament is elected by the sworn burgesses of the town, paying scot and lot. The town has a court of pleas for all actions without limitation, and is pretty well built for this part of the country. It has a market on Thursdays, and a fair on the 29th of October, for horses, horned cattle and sheep.

About two miles and a half to the west of this town is OLD RADNOR, called by the Welch Maes Ivid Hen, and from its high situation Pen-braeg. Camden supposes this place to have been the Magoth, or Magnoth, mentioned by Antoninus, where the commander of the Paciencian regiment lay in garrison, under the lieutenant of Briton, in the reign of Theodosius the Younger: in proof of this, he tells us, that the writers of the middle age called the inhabitants of this country the Magasetae, and that its distance from other places mentioned by Antoninus, confirms this opinion.

Seven miles south of New-Radnor is PAIN'S castle, so called from its being built by Pain a Norman. This castle being demolished by the Welch, was rebuilt by Henry the Third with stone, in the year 1231. There are here two fairs, held on the 12th of May, and the 19th of December, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.



Nine miles west of New-Radnor is the village of LLANDRINDOD, by which is a common, six miles long, and three quarters of a mile broad, and in that part of it which lies in this parish, are medicinal springs of approved virtue, of which we have given a particular account in treating of the waters of this county. The air of this place is extremely salutary, whence the weak and consumptive people, that come here to drink the waters, soon revive and gather strength. These springs are now frequented by very genteel company, and in the summer season the common people resort hither in crowds.

Seven miles to the north-east of New-Radnor is PRESTEIN, or PRESTEIGN, which is seated on the bank of the river Lug, in a pleasant and rich valley, thirteen miles west by north of Leominster, and one hundred and forty-nine west-north-west of London; and is called in Welch Llan-Andre. It was formerly a village, but is now a well built town, in which the assizes for the county are held; and here is the county-jail. The town is very populous, and the streets are well paved and kept clean. It has a market on Saturdays, for provisions, and especially barley, of which the inhabitants make great quantities of malt. It has two fairs, held on the 24th of June, and the 30th of November, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.

Four miles north of Prestein is KNIGHTON, which is one hundred and forty-seven miles west-north-west of London, and is seated in a valley on the bank of the Temd, over which it has a bridge, and is called by the Welch Trebuclô. By it passes Offa's dyke, which extends from the mouth of the Dee to Weymouth, which is about eighty computed miles, and was designed to separate the Britons from the English; and we are told



that king Harold made a law, that whatever Welchman should be found armed on the east side of the dyke, he should have his right hand cut off by the king's officers. The town is well built, and being a place of great resort, has a good trade. Its market, which is on Thursdays, is well supplied with cattle, corn, hardware, linen and woollen cloth, hops, salt and other commodities; and it has two fairs, held on the 6th of May, and the 21st of September, for horses, horned cattle and sheep.

All the land in this county to the west and north-west, is called by the natives MELIEN-YDH, from the yellowish mountains, which have, for the most part, a barren and hungry soil. However, there are the ruins of several castles, particularly those of Kevn Lyks, and of Tinbod, which last stood on the summit of a hill, and was destroyed in the year 1260, by Llewelyn prince of Wales.

Twenty-two miles to the west of Knighton is RHAIDAR GWY, which is seated by a cataract, where the river Wye falls down a steep precipice, whence the town obtained its name, which signifies the cataract, or fall of the river Wye. It had a castle, which was repaired by Rhys, prince of South-Wales, in the reign of king Richard the First; but there are not at present the least remains of it; only on one side of the castle yard is a deep trench, cut out of an exceeding hard and solid rock. About two furlongs below the place where the castle stood is a large barrow, and on the other side of the chapel adjoining are two more, but much less than the former. The town is very small, and contains nothing worthy of notice.

Near this place, Camden says, is a vast wilderness, rendered very dismal by many crooked ways

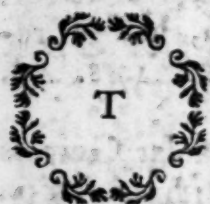
ways and high mountains ; into which, as a proper place of refuge, king Vortigern withdrew himself, when he at last repented of his calling in the English Saxons, and incestuously marrying his own daughter.

The only religious house in this county was at COMBEHIRE, north-east of the above cataract, where Cadwathelan ap Madoc, in 1143, founded a Cistercian abbey, which was dedicated to St. Mary, and at the general suppression, had a revenue which was then valued at 28 l. 17 s. 4 d. a year.

Three miles north by west of Rhaidar Gwy is a village called ST. HARMON, which has a fair on the 15th of August, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.



## RUTLANDSHIRE.



THE name of this county is derived from its ancient Saxon name Roteland, the etymology of which is entirely unknown. Some have derived it from Roet, or Rud, which signifies red; because, in many parts of the county, the land is of a red colour. But others object that this cannot be the reason, and alledge, that there is only one part of the county, which is about Glaiston, that has a ruddy soil; besides, most of the counties in England have soil of the same colour, and therefore these would have it to be derived from the word Rotundalandia, from its circular figure: but its form was not round when this name, of which Rutland is supposed to be a contraction, was given it; and besides, it is not probable that the Saxons would give a Latin name to an English county.

Rutlandshire, the least of all the counties in England, is bounded on the north by Leicestershire and Lincolnshire; on the east by Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire; and on the south and west by Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. It extends not quite fifteen miles in length from north to south, and scarcely thirteen in breadth from east to west, and is but forty miles in circumference. Okeham, the county town, which is seated near the middle of the county, is ninety-six miles north north-west of London.

In the time of the Romans this county was a part of the district inhabited by the Coritani; but under the Saxons it was a part of the kingdom of Mercia. The most ancient account we have of this county is in the reign of Edward the Confessor, who, by his last will, bequeathed it to Egith, on condition that after her death it should belong to the monastery of St. Peter's at Westminster, which it accordingly did; but William the Conqueror seized it and allowed the monastery little more than the tythes, dividing the lands between his kinsmen and followers, except what he kept to himself. This county has given the title of earl ever since the reign of Richard the Second: the first earl of Rutland was Edward, the eldest son of Edmund Langley, the fifth son of Edward the Third; but the first earl of the present family of the Manners, was created earl of Rutland by Henry the Eighth. In the reign of queen Anne, John Manners, then earl of Rutland, received from that princess, the title of marquis of Granby and duke of Rutland, which his successors still enjoy.

The air of this county is sweet, pleasant and healthful, the county being free from the unwholesome fogs and mists which arise from moors, marshy grounds, and standing waters. The soil is very fruitful, both in corn and pasture; for here are no wastes and barren spots. The vale of Catmose is, in particular, equal to any in the kingdom. The county also affords wood for firing, and produces a great quantity of cattle, especially sheep. Upon Witchley heath, between Ketton and Tine-well, are pits, called the quarries, which probably in former times furnished some sorts of stone for building; but they are either now exhausted or neglected; for the latest writers take no notice of them.

The



The water here is equally plentiful and good, but the county has only two rivers, the Welland and the Gwash. The Welland, which runs on the south and south-east, dividing this county from Northamptonshire, has been already described, in our account of Lincolnshire. The Gwash, or Wash, as it is more usually called, rises near Okeham, in a district surrounded with hills, and running eastward, divides the county nearly into two equal parts, and running into Lincolnshire, falls into the Welland to the east of Stamford. This river supplies many towns with excellent water, and affords plenty of fish; and most of the other towns and villages, at a distance from this river, have rivulets and brooks that pass by them.

This county is divided into five hundreds, but has no city, and contains only two market towns, namely, Okeham, and Uppingham. It is in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Peterborough, and contains forty-eight parishes, but sends only two members to parliament, who are the knights of the shire.

We shall enter this county by the London road, in which, having crossed the Welland from Rockingham in Northamptonshire, we come to LYDDINGTON, or LYDDITON, which is seated about two miles south of Uppingham, and was formerly a much more considerable place than it is at present. Leland in his Itinerary tells us, that it is the ancient manor of the bishop of Lincoln; accordingly we find many footsteps of the bishops possessing it; for we are assured he had a palace here, that is now turned into an hospital, in which is a large chamber that had several inscriptions on the windows, with the arms of two of the bishops. Lydditon had anciently a market belonging

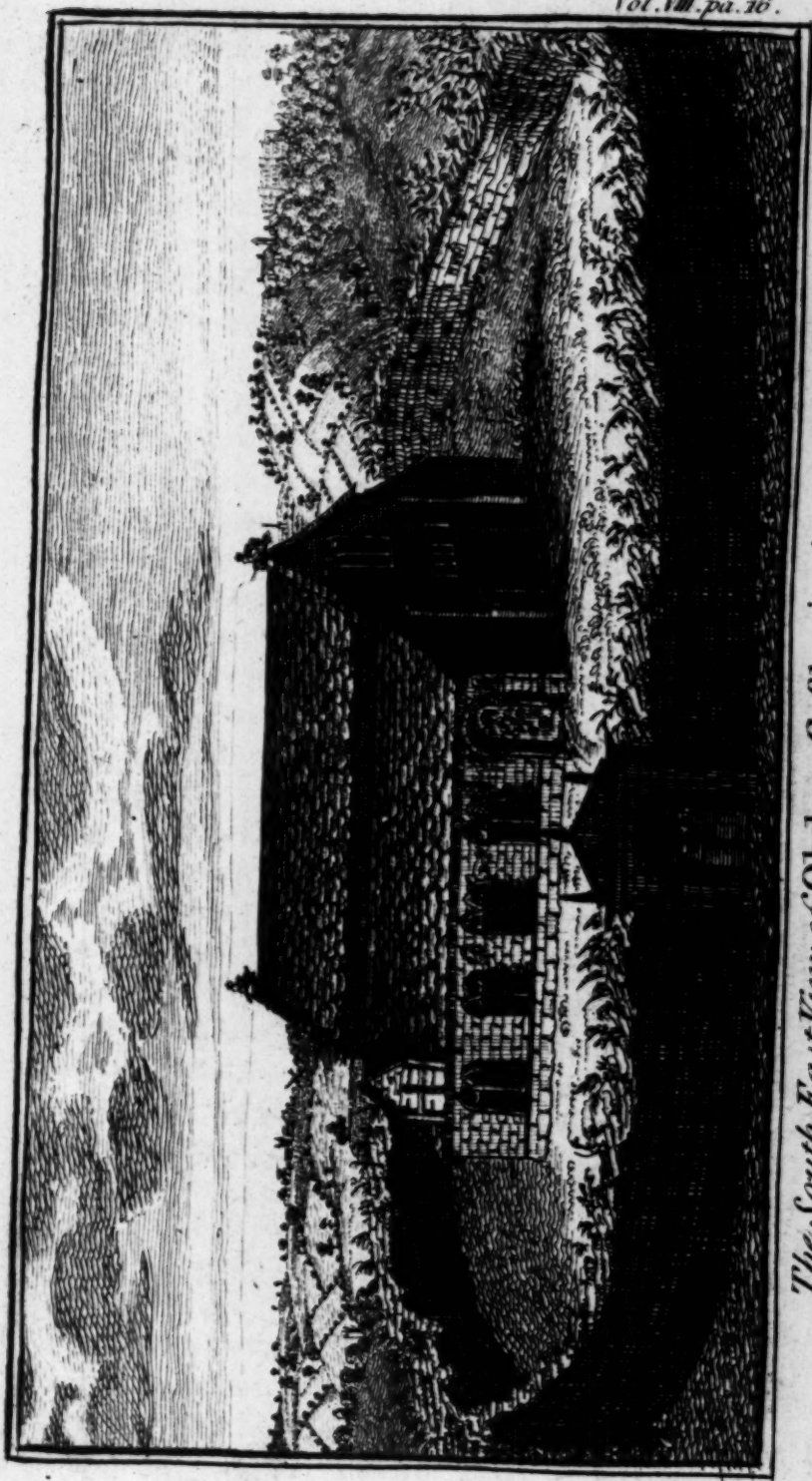
belonging to the bishop of Lincoln, which has been long since disused. The above palace was converted into an hospital by Thomas, lord Burleigh, in the year 1602, for a warden, twelve poor men, and two women, who gave it the name of Jesus' hospital, and endowed it with a competent maintenance.

UPPINGHAM, is so called, according to Camden, from its situation on an eminence; but the author of the Additions will not allow this, because, though the ground on which it stands be somewhat above a level, it cannot properly be termed a hill. It is seated in the road from London to Okeham, at the distance of 87 miles north by west of the capital, and is a neat, compact, well built town. Here, by a statute of Henry the Seventh, the standard for the weights and measures of the county, are appointed to be kept. It has an hospital and a free-school, both founded in 1584 by the reverend Mr. Johnson, the founder of the free-school of Okeham. This town has a well frequented market on Wednesdays, with two fairs, held on the 7th of March, and the 7th of July, for horses, horned cattle, and coarse linen cloath.

Five miles north of Uppingham is OKEHAM, or OAKHAM, which Camden supposes to have been so called from the oak trees which grew in its neighbourhood. It is pleasantly situated in the vale of Catmose, ninety-six miles north-north-west of London, and is the county-town, where the assizes are held. It is well built and inhabited, and has an ancient castle, built by Walkelin de Ferrariis, or Ferrers, a younger son of the earl of Derby, in the reign of William the Conqueror, and continued to be the residence of that family till the male issue were extinct; since which time it has been in the possession of several royal and noble families, till at length it came to the earl of Nottingham; but there are only the out-walls, facing

facing the ditch of the castle, now remaining, the principal structure having been long demolished, and the building that now stands in the room of the ancient one, was built with the materials of the castle. In this structure is the hall in which the assizes are held, and the public business of the county transacted. There is here an ancient custom, which is still continued, that every baron of the realm, the first time he comes thro' this town, must give a horse-shoe to nail upon the castle gate, and if he refuses, the bailiff of the manor is authorized to stop his coach and take a shoe from one of the horses feet; but they commonly give a crown, half a guinea, or a guinea, and in proportion to the gift, the shoe is made larger or smaller, and the name and titles of the donor being cut upon it, it is nailed on the castle hall gate. This custom is doubtless derived from the de Ferrers, the ancient lords of the town, whose arms were three horse-shoes, and whose name imports workers in iron. Of this castle we have given an engraved view.

There is here a church dedicated to All-Saints, which is a fine structure, with a lofty spire, also a free-school and an hospital, built and endowed in the reign of king James the First, by the reverend Mr. Robert Johnson, minister of North Luffingham, a village about four or five miles south-east of this town. Here is also an hospital very much decayed, founded and endowed by William Dalby, a merchant of Exton in this county, in the reign of king Richard the Second, about the year 1398. It was dedicated to St. John and St. Anne, and consisted of two chaplains and twelve poor men, who were to pray for the good estate of that king and Isabel his queen, and after their decease, for their souls; but in the year 1421, Roger Flore, of Okeham, Esq; becoming the patron, made several alterations and additions



*The South East View of Okeham Castle, in the County of Rutland.*





additions to the former statutes. It was valued at the dissolution at 12l. 10s. a year. It is, however, still in being, but the present governors maintain that it is a new foundation, and consequently of a different patronage. In 1711, a charity-school was opened for teaching and cloathing twelve boys, and the same number of girls. Here were anciently two markets on Wednesdays and Saturdays, but at present there is only one on the last-mentioned day, with three fairs, held on the 15th of March, for horned cattle and sheep; on the 6th of May, for horned cattle, sheep and a shew of stone horses, and on the 11th of September, for horned cattle, sheep and swine.

Before the reformation it was customary for devotees to go on pilgrimage to a spring in this parish, at about a quarter of a mile from the town, in honour of the Virgin Mary, and this spring is still called our Lady's well.

Geffery Hudson, a person remarkable for his diminutive stature, was born at Okeham in 1619, and when seven years of age, was not above fifteen inches high, though his parents, who had several other children of the usual size, were tall and lusty. At that age the duke of Buckingham took him into his family; and to divert the court, who, on a progress through this county, were entertained at the duke's seat at Burleigh on the hill, he was served up at table in a cold pye. Between the seventh and thirtieth years of his age, he did not advance many inches in stature; but it is remarkable that soon after thirty, he shot up to the height of three feet nine inches, which he never exceeded. He was given to Henrietta Maria, consort to king Charles the First, probably at the time of his being served up in the pye; and that princess, who kept him as her dwarf, is said frequently to have employed him in messages abroad.

abroad. In the civil wars he was raised to the rank of captain of horse in the king's service, and afterwards accompanied the queen his mistress to France, from whence he was banished for killing a brother of lord Croft's in a duel on horseback. He was afterwards taken at sea by a corsair, and was many years a slave in Barbary, but being redeemed, he came to England, and in 1678 was committed prisoner to the gate house in Westminster, on suspicion of being concerned in Oates's plot; but after lying there a considerable time, he was at last discharged, and died in 1682, at sixty-three years of age.

At BURLEIGH ON THE HILL, a pleasant village to the northward of Okeham, is a fine seat belonging to the earl of Winchelsea. When the family of the Spencers resided here, it happened that Henry Spencer, bishop of Norwich, was at this town when he heard of the rebellion raised by Wat. Tyler, and Jack Straw, on which he directly marched from hence with such forces as he could suddenly get together, to suppress the rebels in his diocese, who had for their leader one John Lyster, a dyer of Norwich, which he effected. The manor of this village passed through several hands, till Sir George Villiers, afterwards duke of Buckingham, purchased it of the family of the Harringtons, and rendered it one of the finest seats in England. Here, he entertained James the First and his whole court, and here, as we have already observed, the above dwarf, was served up to the table in a pye, to divert king Charles and his queen, who were present. This noble structure was made a garrison by the parliament forces in 1645; but the parliament's army being withdrawn, the royalists surrounded it, upon which the garrison set fire to the house, and forsook it. Daniel, the late earl of Nottingham, erected

erected in the place of the old house, a most noble structure, which is seated on a hill in the middle of a walled park, five or six miles in circumference. It is elegantly furnished and adorned with fine paintings; and has a valuable library and delightful gardens: there are also about it large woods, rich pastures, and plenty of game.

Three miles east of Okeham is WHITWELL, a village which has a church, wherein, before the suppression of religious houses, was a chantry founded for the maintenance of one priest, to sing there for ever. It had several lands and tenements belonging to it, in the counties of Rutland and Lincoln, which, at the suppression, were valued at 5 l. 7 s. 1 d. a year. There was found in it one silver chalice, which weighed twenty ounces, and was delivered into the jewel office; but the ornaments, goods and chattles, were valued at no more than thirteen shillings and eleven-pence.

About six miles east of Okeham is BRIG-CASTERTON, which is seated on the river Gwash, and is so called from the bridge over that river. Camden is of opinion, that this was a Roman station, and that it was the Gausennae of Antoninus; it is pretty certain that the Romans have been here, as a great number of their coins have been met with, since Camden's time, in plowing and digging the fields. Camden adds, that it is generally thought, that this station was demolished when the Picts and Scots ravaged this part of the island, as far as Stamford, where Hengist and his Saxons stopped their progress, and forced them to fly home in great disorder, leaving many prisoners and dead bodies behind them.

Five miles north of Okeham is MARKET-OVERTON, which had formerly a market, as the name imports. Camden, in one edition of his book, would have this to be the Margidunum of Antoninus,



Antoninus, but in the edition of 1607, he removed that station to Belvoir castle; but, according to Horsley, he is still in an error, that gentleman placing Margidunum at East Bridgeford. Camden's annotator, however, tells us, that the first opinion may be right; for dunum signifies a down or hill, and Market-Overton stands upon the highest hill within view in that neighbourhood, except Burley and Cole-Overton. And as for the other part of the name, Marga, there is plenty of lime stone in the fields thereabouts, of which good lime has been made, which agrees very well with the British marga, that was used to improve their grounds. Such plenty of Roman coins have been found here, that few places in these parts have produced such numbers; and not many years ago, between two and three hundred were picked up about half a mile from the village.

Two miles south of Okeham is BROOK, where was a small priory of regular canons of the order of St. Augustine, founded by Hugh Ferrers, in the reign of king Richard the First. It was subordinate to the monastery of Kenelworth, near Coventry in Warwickshire, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. At the time of the dissolution, Roger Harwell was prior, and upon his resigning this priory into the king's hands, he had a grant of 10 l. a year for his support, till he should otherwise be provided for. Its revenues at the suppression were valued at 40 l. a year.

At MANTON, about two miles and a half to the south-east of Okeham, was a chantry or college, founded in about the twenty-fifth year of Edward the Third, for the maintenance of a master or governor, and two stipendary brethren, to celebrate divine service there for ever. The plate belonging to this college, which is said to have

## RUTLANDSHIRE. 23


have weighed only seven ounces, was delivered to the jewel office; and the ornaments, household stuff, and other goods and chattels, were appraised at no more than 27 l.

At MORCOT was a small hospital for six poor men and women who were unmarried, and were allowed 6l. a year each. It was founded in the tenth year of James the First, by George Ilson, a Roman Catholic, and being thus founded since the suppression of religious houses, did not undergo their general fate.

SHROP.



## S H R O P S H I R E.

HROPSHIRE, also called the county of SALOP, takes its name from Scrobbesbyrig, the Saxon name of Shrewsbury, the county town, which is generally derived from the brush wood and shrubs, with which the ground was covered before the town was built. It is also called Salop, or the county of Salop; from the name by which the town of Shrewsbury was afterwards called by the Normans. This county is bounded on the east by Staffordshire; on the south by Worcestershire, Herefordshire, and a small part of Radnorshire; on the west by Montgomeryshire and Denbighshire; and on the north by part of Flintshire and Cheshire; and is reckoned one of the largest inland counties in England, it extending upwards of forty miles in length from north to south, and thirty-five in breadth from east to west, and is upwards of a hundred and sixty miles in circumference. Shrewsbury, which is nearly in the center of the county, is one hundred and fifty-seven miles north-west of London.

That division of Shropshire, which extends north of the Severn, is allowed to be part of the country, which, in the time of the Romans, was inhabited by the Cornavii; but that part on the south of the Severn belonged to the Ordovices, a people who inhabited the greatest part of Wales; but under the Saxons this county was a district of the kingdom of Mercia. The famous

amous Roman military way, called Watling-street, enters Shropshire from Staffordshire, at Boningale, a village on the borders of the county, to the north-east of Bridgenorth, and passes from that village north-west to Wallington, and from thence south-west through Wroxeter; where crossing the Severn at Wroxeter-ford, it runs southward through the county into Herefordshire. This road is very entire in the neighbourhood of Wroxeter, where being straight, and raised a considerable height above the level of the soil, it may be seen from thence ten or fifteen miles both to the south and north.

There is nothing very remarkable relating to the transactions of the Romans in this county, except the battle fought between Ostorius the Roman general, and the brave British king named Caractacus. Every thing was in confusion in Briton, when Ostorius being sent hither in the room of Plautius, endeavoured to render himself formidable by his vigilance and activity; accordingly, with such forces as were next at hand, he routed some scattered parties that were placed as garrisons upon the Avon and Severn. He afterwards advanced against the Cangians, laying waste the country with little or no opposition as far as the Irish sea. The Iceni and Brigantes, endeavouring to stop his progress, were soon defeated; however, the Silures, under their prince Caractacus, made a greater stand; and that he might encounter the Romans with advantage, removed the seat of the war into the country of the Ordovices, now North-Wales, where he was immediately joined by those, who being inspired with the love of liberty, could not bear the thought of submitting to the Roman yoke. He encamped his army on the top of an almost inaccessible hill, which Camden supposes, to be that now called  
Caeradoc,



Caeradoc, and where there was a possibility of climbing up to it, he raised heaps of stones, in the manner of a rampart, and at the bottom was a river, which the Romans were obliged to pass before they could attack him; for which reason he placed some of his best troops to oppose their passage. Notwithstanding this, Ostorius ordered his men to pass the river and begin the attack. The Britons annoyed them with showers of arrows, darts, and stones, by which many of the Romans were slain, and much greater numbers wounded; but they at length passing the river, came to a close engagement, threw down the weak fortifications that had been raised against them, and defeated the Britons with great slaughter. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken prisoners; but he himself escaped to the queen of the Brigantes, who, contrary to her promise, delivered him up to the Romans; and he, with his wife and daughter, were carried in triumph to Rome, where, being brought before the emperor Claudius, he made so bold and animated a speech, that the emperor, admiring his courage, set him, as well as his wife and daughter, at liberty.

Under the Saxons, when this county constituted a part of the kingdom of Mercia, we do not find any thing remarkable relating to it, except that Edwy, the last earl of Mercia, had large possessions there; but the Norman conquest made prodigious alterations, for the Conqueror gratified his followers with large estates, and we find that Roger de Montgomery, who was created earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury, possessed the greatest part of the county.

Shropshire being a frontier between England and Wales, was better fortified than any other county in England, it having no less than thirty-

two castles, besides fortified towns. The extremity of Shropshire towards Wales, from its being the limits of both countries, was called the Marches of Wales, and governed by some of the nobility of this county, who were stiled Lords of the Marches. These lords, within their several jurisdictions, acted with a kind of palatinate authority, which nearly resembled sovereign power; but it being generally exercised with great insolence over the inhabitants, it was, after the reduction of Wales, gradually abolished.

The principal rivers of this county are the Severn, the Temd, and the Colun, or Clun. The Severn is esteemed the second river in England, next to the Thames. It rises in Plimlimon-hills, in Montgomeryshire; from whence, rushing down with a swift current, and being joined with many lesser torrents, it presently appears considerable; and passing by Llanydlos and Newtown, becomes navigable near Welchpool, where the river Vernew joins it with a stream little inferior to its own: from thence, proceeding gently forward to Shrewsbury, it flows through a rich vale, with many large windings, till it arrives at Benthall Edge, by the way receiving into it the river Tern, which waters all the north of Shropshire. Here the Severn begins to be rapid, it being pent up between two opposite hills, both very steep and lofty; and from hence, to Bridgenorth and Bewdley, the channel is confined by high woody banks, and rocky cliffs, which afford variety of beautiful prospects. Afterwards, it again glides pleasantly on through the fruitful plains of Worcestershire, visiting in its way the city itself; and a little below is considerably augmented by the influx of the Temd: that addition, however, is much inferior to its junction with the river Avon at Tewksbury, which is navigable up to Pershore,

Evesham, and Stratford; it then pursues its course to Gloucester, and about fifty miles below that city, falls into Bristol channel. This river is of great importance, on account of the trade carried on by its means, not only between the towns in this county, but in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, it being navigated by vessels of large burthen, above one hundred and sixty miles from the sea, without the assistance of any lock. Upwards of a hundred thousand tons of coals are annually shipped from the collieries, about Madeley and Broseley, to the towns and cities situated on its banks, and from thence into the adjacent countries; also great quantities of grain, pig and bar iron, iron manufactures, and earthen ware, as well as wool, hops, cyder and provisions, are constantly carried to Bristol and other places, from whence merchants goods, &c. are brought in return. The freight from Shrewsbury to Bristol, is about ten shillings per ton, and from Bristol to Shrewsbury, fifteen shillings, the rates to the intermediate towns being in proportion; in navigating this river about four hundred vessels are employed. The Severn abounds with all kinds of fresh water fish, particularly salmon, pike, shads, trouts, graylings, chubs, dace, carp, flounders, eels, and lampreys.

The Temd rises in the north part of Radnorshire, and running south-east, separates Shropshire from the county of Radnor, and then running to the eastward, divides it from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and falls into the Severn near the city of Worcester.

The Clun, or Colun, rises near Bishops Castle in this county, and running south-east, discharges itself into the Temd near Ludlow.

The

## S H R O P S H I R E. 27

The less considerable streams in this county are the Tern, the Rodan, the Rea, the Warren, and the Ony.

There are three remarkable mineral waters in this county, particularly one at Moreton, a village two miles west of Market-Drayton, which will not lather with soap; it curdles milk, and yields a white sediment with oil of tartar; it turns green with syrup of violets, and scarlet with logwood. A gallon of this water will yield two hundred and seventy-seven grains of sediment; whereof seventy-six is earth, and the rest a calcarious nitre. It is an excellent cooling, diuretic and cathartic, and purges very briskly. It bears a great resemblance to Holt water, only the taste is more pungent, and it has probably the same virtues.

At Pitchford, a village six miles south by east of Shrewsbury, is a pitchy spring, which gives name to the village. This spring is remarkable for having a sort of liquid bitumen float on the surface of the water, though it is scummed off every day. It is found to be excellent for wounds, and will cure inveterate scrophulous ulcers.

The other remarkable spring is at Broseley, a village four miles north-east of Wenlock, which exhales a vapour, that when contracted to a small vent, by an iron cover with a hole in it, catches fire from any flame, at the distance of a quarter of a yard, darting and flashing in a violent manner, to the height of one thousand eight hundred and twenty inches. It is hotter than common fire, and boils any thing much sooner. It will also broil mutton-chops, or other meat, without giving them the least smell or taste of its sulphureous quality. It will presently reduce green boughs, or any thing else that will burn, to ashes, and yet the flame may be put out by holding a wet



mop over it. But what is still more strange, the water itself, as soon as ever the fire is out, is extremely cold, so that no person would imagine there had been any there. This well is about a hundred yards from the river Severn, in the neighbourhood of mines of coals and iron, there being coal-pits on every side, though none very near it. It is supposed to be impregnated with a sort of liquid bitumen; called petroleum, but it is said to have ceased burning since the year 1752, on account of an earthquake; but whether it has recovered this quality since or not, we cannot determine.

There is also a milky water found at Sheriff-Hales, on the borders of this county near Staffordshire, among the iron mines, especially near one, called by the country people, the White-mine. The miners there, in breaking of a stone, meet with a great quantity of a whitish milky liquor in the middle of it, and sometimes a hog-head in one cavity. It has a sweetish taste, not unlike that of vitriol of iron.

The air of the county is pure and salubrious, but the county being mountainous, it is, in many places, sharp and piercing. The county has many coal-pits, which yield great profit to the inhabitants, who send the coals into the neighbouring counties. Here are also mines of copper, lead, and iron, with quarries of stone. At Broseley, Bentley, Pitchford, and other adjacent places near the coal-pits, is a stratum of a blackish rock or stone of some thickness, which is very porous, and contains a large quantity of a sort of bitumen. This stone is ground to a powder in horse-mills, and thrown into large coppers of water, which being boiled, the earthy or gritty parts sink to the bottom, while a bituminous matter floats on the surface of the water, and by evaporation

ration is brought to the consistency of pitch. An oil is also produced from the same stone, by distillation, which being mixed with the bituminous substance, dilutes it into a kind of tar. Both these substances are used for caulking of ships, and are better for that purpose than either pitch or tar, because they never crack. The oil has much the same virtues as petroleum, and a sort of it is now sold in London, and other parts of the kingdom, in bottles, by the name of British oil.

The soil of this county is very fruitful: the northern and eastern parts yield great plenty of wheat and barley; but the southern and western parts being mountainous, are less fertile, yet afford pasturage for sheep and cattle; and along the banks of the Severn are extensive tracts of rich meadow-ground, that produces abundance of grass.

The uncommon plants growing wild in this county are:

Hare's tail-rush, *Gramen junciodes lanatum*. Near Ellesmere, in great abundance; it is the same with *Gramen plumosum elegans*, &c.

Coddled arsemart, or touch-me-not, *Persicaria filiquosa*. On the banks of the river Kemlet at Marington, in the parish of Cherbury; as also at Guerndee, in the parish of Cherstock, about half a mile from the same river, among great alder-trees in the highway.

The lesser wild rosemary, *Rosmarinum silvestre minus*. In the moors at Birch, in the parish of Ellesmere, plentifully, and in other counties in boggy places.

Dog-mercury, branched and seeded like spinage or mercury, *Cynocrambe*, or *Mercurialis perennis repens*.

Spleenwort, *Asplenium*. On the walls at Ludlow.

Lady's mantle, *Aschymilla*. Near Bishops Castle.

Succory leaved mountain hawkweed, *Hieracium montanum cichorei folio nostras*.

Golden rod, *virga aurea*. In the woods near Bishops castle.

Ploughman's spikenard, *Baccharis*. In the road between Onebury and Ludlow.

Smallage, *Paludapium*. In Stank-mead near Bishops Castle.

Fair flowered nettle hemp, *Cannabis spuria flore eleganti*. Very common among the corn, in the south-west parts.

Sage leaved black-mullen, *Verbascum nigrum*. In the road between the Heath and the Jay.

Butter-wort, *Pinguicula*. Near Longment.

Wild rockët, *Eruca silvestris*. On the walls of Ludlow castle.

Quick-in-hand, *Persicaria filiquosa*. At Guern Dee.

Climbing fumitory, *Fumaria claviculata*. In the warren near Bishops Castle, plentifully.

Maiden pinks, *Caryophyllus minor repens nostras*. In the lane from Bishops Castle to Woodbeach.

Tutſan, or park-leaves, *Clymenum Italorum*. In a wood at Old Church-moor, plentifully.

Marſh St. Peters wort, *Aſcyron Palyſtre*. By Liddum heath.

Meadow Saffron, *Colchicum purpureum*. In Hope mead by Bishops Castle.

Marſh Hellebore, *Helleborine paluſtris*. In Oakley wood.

Hare's tail-ruſh, *Juncus Alpinus cum cauda leporina*. On Elſmere meers.

Black-berried heath, *Erica baccifera*. Upon the Stiperſtone common.

Quicken-

Quicken-tree, *Fraxinus bubula*. Upon Mendip hills.

Red worts, or cranberries, *Vaccinia rubra*. Upon Stiperstone common.

The barberry-bush, *Berberis dumetorum*. In the hedges by the road side, from New-Inn to Shrewsbury.

The raspberry-bush, *Rubus idaeus*. By Henley wood.

Wild rosemary, *Erica humilis rosmarini foliis*. On the moors near Elsmeer.

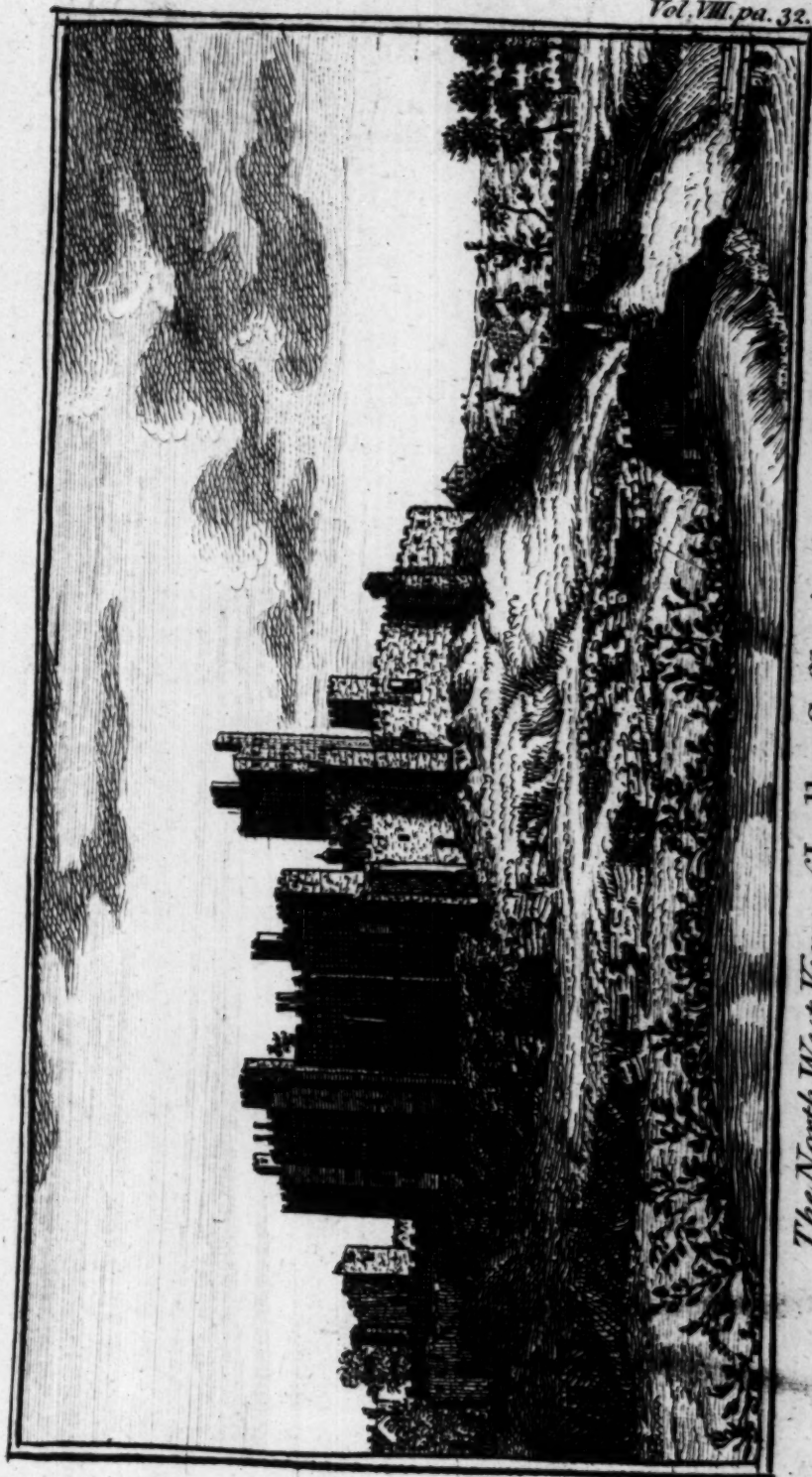
This county is divided into fifteen hundreds: it has no city, but contains the following market towns, Hales-Owen, Ludlow, Bishops-Castle, Ellesmere, Church-Stretton, Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Wem, Whitchurch, Drayton, Wellington, Newport, Great-Wenlock, Bridgenorth, and Clebury. It is seated in the province of Canterbury; the part of it which lies south of the Severn, is under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Hereford, and that which lies north of it, is under the bishop of Coventry and Litchfield, except Oswestry, and a few other places, which are under the bishoprick of St. Asaph; but the archdeacon of Shrewsbury is archdeacon for the three dioceses. In this county are a hundred and seventy parishes: it sends twelve members to parliament, two knights of the shire for the county, and two burgeses for each of the following towns, Shrewsbury, Bridgenorth, Bishops-Castle, Wenlock, and Ludlow.

On entering this county from Leominster in Herefordshire, you come to LUDLOW, which is seated at the confluence of the Temd and Corve, one hundred and thirty-six miles west-north-west of London, twenty-nine miles south of Shrewsbury, seventy south of Chester, and seventy-five



north of Bristol. It stands upon a hill that commands an extensive prospect of the adjacent country, except towards the west, where the view is intercepted by lofty eminences. It is a very clean well built place, and is the residence of many people of rank and fortune. The principal street is that which leads from the bridge to the town-house, an elegant structure of hewn stone: the next is that which leads to the horse-course. It was incorporated by king Edward the Fourth, and has the power of trying and executing criminals distinct from the county. It is governed by two bailiffs, twelve aldermen, twenty-five common-council-men, a recorder, a town-clerk, a steward, chamberlain, coroner, and other officers. The country around it is exceeding pleasant, fruitful, and populous, particularly a vale on the banks of the river Corve, called Corvesdale. The town is divided into four wards, and is encompassed with walls, in which are seven gates. It has an old castle erected by Roger de Montgomery soon after the conquest, great part of which is in ruins; some apartments are, however, entire and furnished; the battlements are very high, thick, and adorned with towers. It has a neat chapel, in which are the coats of arms of several of the Welch gentry, and over the stable doors, are those of queen Elizabeth, the earl of Pembroke, and others. The walls of the castle were originally a mile in compass, and before it was a lawn that extended near two miles, but a considerable part of it is now inclosed. Of this castle, which was a palace belonging to the prince of Wales, to whom it still belongs, we have given an engraved view.

The church is an ancient venerable edifice, in the upper part of the town. In the choir is an inscription relating to prince Arthur, brother to  
king



*The North West View of Ludlow Castle, in the County of Salop.*



king Henry the Eighth, whose bowels were deposited in the choir. In the same choir is a closet, called the Godt-house, where the priests used to keep their consecrated utensils; and to this church the earl of Powis lately gave a new organ, which cost 1000 l. Ludlow gives the title of viscount to that nobleman, who has a seat at Oakley park near the town. There is here also a meeting-house, which serves both the Presbyterians and Baptists, who are unable to keep two different ministers. In the market-place is a conduit with a lofty stone cross upon it; and in a niche, on the cross, is the image of St. Lawrence, to whom the church was dedicated. Here is also an alms-house for thirty poor people, and two charity-schools, in which fifty boys, and thirty girls are both taught and clothed. The town has a good bridge over the Temd, which turns many mills in the neighbourhood, and across which are several wears. Provisions are here very cheap, and the town receives great benefit from its having the education of the Welch youth of both sexes, and its being a great thoroughfare to Wales. Horse-races are annually kept in the neighbourhood, and the inhabitants are esteemed very polite. Ludlow has a market on Mondays, well supplied with excellent provisions, and five fairs, held on the Tuesday before Easter, and the Wednesday in Whitsun-week, for horned cattle, horses, woollen and linen cloth and hogs; on August 21, Sept. 28, and Nov. 7, for horses, horned cattle, sheep, woollen and linen cloth, fat hogs and hops.

When Robert of Montgomery, the son of Roger, who built the castle, and also enclosed the town with a wall, was attainted, Henry the First kept it in his own hands. This castle and town were afterwards held for the empress Maud, and besieged by king Stephen. During the siege, Hen-



ry, the son of the king of Scots, being violently plucked from his saddle by an engine, had like to have been carried over the wall into the town, if Stephen in person had not rescued him. Afterwards Henry the Second gave the castle and Corvesdale to Sir Fulk Fitz-Warren, called also de Dinan, from this town, it being one of the ancient British names of Ludlow. It then belonged to the Lacies of Ireland, and came by a female to Sir Geoffrey de Teneville, from whose heirs it descended by a daughter, to the Mortimers, earls of March, and from them came to the crown. Edward the Fifth resided here when his father died, and was removed from hence to London, by his uncle the duke of Gloucester. Arthur, prince of Wales, the eldest son of Henry the Seventh, kept his court at Ludlow castle, and died there. Ludlow espoused the cause of Charles the First, and was one of the places that last surrendered to the parliament. Henry the Eighth contributed greatly to its emolument, by establishing in it the council of the Marches, which consisted of the lord president, counsellors at the king's pleasure, a secretary, an attorney, a solicitor, and four justices of so many counties in Wales. This continued till the reign of William the Third, who after the death of the earl of Macclesfield, the last lord president, changed that title into lord lieutenant of North and South Wales, and dissolved the court entirely.

Milton's Masque of Comus was first acted in Ludlow castle, when the earl of Bridgewater was lord president, and some of his children acted parts in it; and here the famous Butler, author of Hudibras, is said to have written the first part of that celebrated poem.

In

In Ludlow were several religious foundations, particularly near the church, which was formerly collegiate, was an hospital or alms-house, for thirty poor persons, who were chiefly maintained by the college. Here was also an hospital for a prior, warden and master, and several poor and infirm brethren, founded in the reign of king John, by Peter Undergod, and dedicated to the Trinity, St. Mary, and St. John the Baptist, which at the suppression had an annual revenue of 27 l. 16 s. 10 d. Here were also a house of Austin friars, before the year 1282, and a college of White friars, founded by Laurence of Ludlow, about the year 1349.

At CAER CARADOCK, a hill near the confluence of the Clun and Temd, are still visible some remains of a fortification, raised by the brave British king Caractacus, in the year 53, who gallantly defended it against Ostorius, and a Roman army. It is commonly called the Gair, and is seated on the east side of a hill, which is only accessible on the west; the ramparts are walled, but for the most part are covered with earth, and tho' the hill consists of a hard rock, the trenches of the Roman camp are very deep. This fortification was, however, taken by Ostorius, and the British prince Caractacus and his family sent prisoners to Rome, for which the Roman senate decreed Ostorius a triumph.

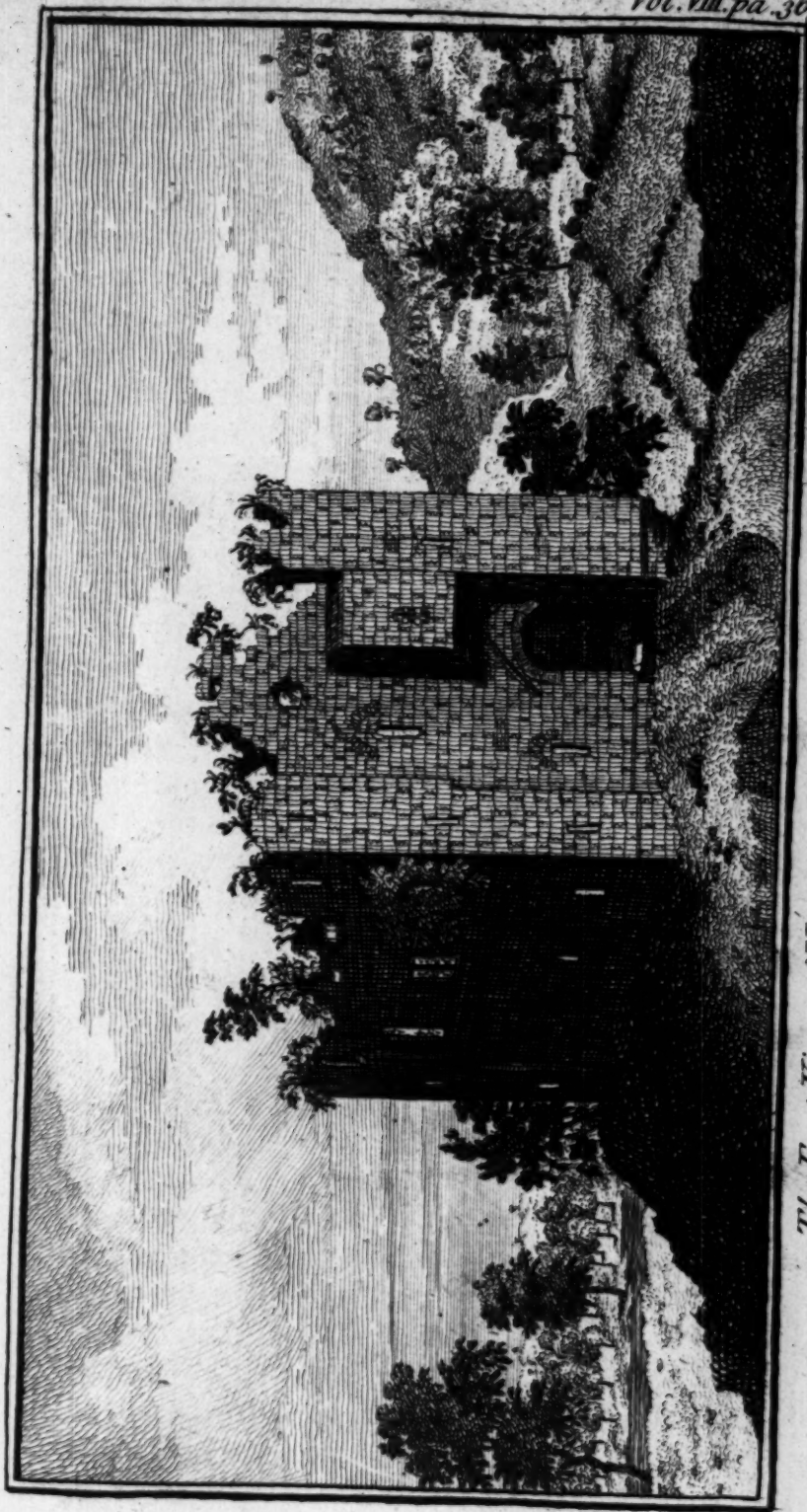
There are in this neighbourhood other traces of Roman camps and British fortifications, said to be destroyed in the above expedition of Ostorius against Caractacus, as a perfect Roman camp called Brandon, and a British camp called Coxoll, and at Lanteaden, near Caer Caradock, are two barrows, in which were found, not long ago, an urn, with ashes and burnt bones.

At BROMFIELD, a village two miles north-west of Ludlow, was a small college of prebendaries, or secular canons, who, in the reign of Henry the Second, turned Benedictine monks, and resigned up their church, and all their lands, to St. Peter's abbey at Gloucester, upon which a prior and monks were placed here, who continued till the dissolution. This priory was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and its revenues were valued at the dissolution at 48 l. 11 s. 8 d. per annum.

HOPTON is a village ten miles west by north of Ludlow, where was a castle seated on an artificial hill. In the reign of king Edward the First it belonged to that branch of the Mortimer's family, called Mortimer of Chirke. It held a garrison in the civil wars, which rendered it famous for the gallant actions they performed in its defence. Some of the walls are pretty entire, and nearly of the same height as at first; and it appears to have been a very strong, though not a very beautiful structure. We have given a view of the remains of this castle.

Thirteen miles north-west of Ludlow is BRISHPES CASTLE, which is seated in the road from Ludlow to Montgomery, at the distance of a hundred and fifty-six miles from London. It took its name from its having formerly belonged to the bishops of Hereford, who had probably a seat here; and though it is not a large place, it enjoys several privileges, particularly that of sending two members to parliament, it being an ancient borough, and having a corporation, which consists of a bailiff, a recorder, and fifteen aldermen, out of whom the bailiff is annually chosen, and is justice of the peace and quorum, for that and the ensuing year. The members of parliament are chosen by the majority of the burgesses, who are inhabitants. It has a market on Fridays,





*The East View of Hopton Castle, in the County of Salop.*

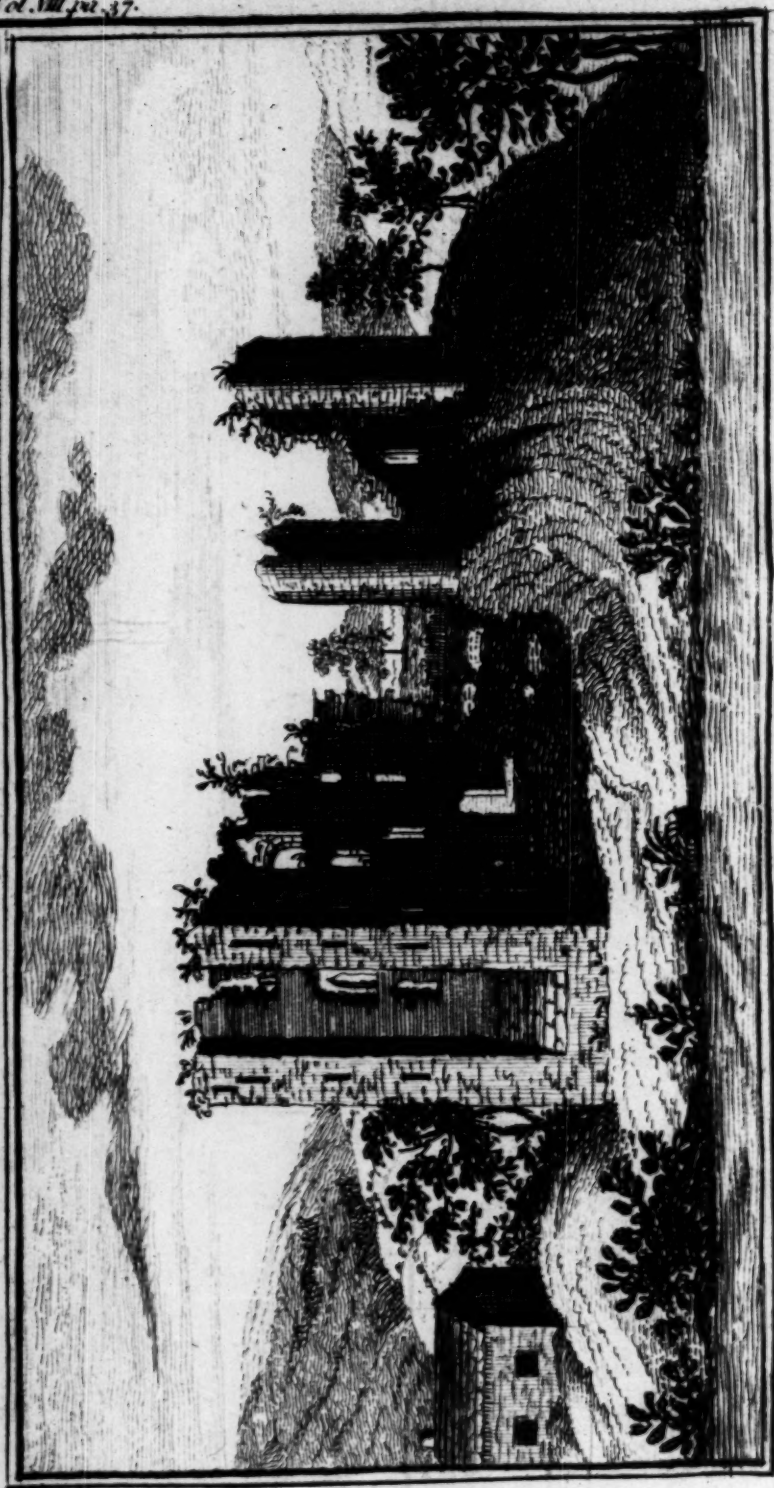






*The North West View of Chm Castle, in the County of Salop.*

Vol. III. p. 37.



days, and six fairs, held on the Friday before the 13th of February, the Friday before Good-Friday, the first Friday after May-day, the 5th of July, the 9th of September, and the 13th of November, for horned cattle, sheep and horses. The day preceding the three last fairs, is for sheep and swine.

CLUN, a village six miles south by east of Bishops castle, was formerly the principal town of the hundred; and a little to the north of it is a castle, which, as well as the town, obtained the name of Clun, from the river Colun, or Clun, on which the village is seated. This castle was built about king Stephen's time, by William Fitz Allan of Clun, who became possessed of this lordship in right of his wife Isabel de Say. This family was many years remarkable for their great estates and dignity, and at length the earldom of Arundel came to them by Thomas Fitz Allan, who was also lord treasurer, and died in 1416. About the year 1579, the lady Mary Fitz Allan was married to Philip Howard, the son of Thomas, duke of Norfolk, by which means it came to that noble family, and from them to the Walcots, who are the present possessors. It is now in ruins, only there are some of the walls standing, from whence it appears to have been formerly a very lofty and strong castle. Of these ruins we have given an engraved view. At the village of Clun are still two fairs, held on the 13th of June, and the 22d of November, for horned cattle, sheep, and horses.

On the south point of the hill, at about a mile north of Clun, is a large fortification of a circular figure, defended with three deep trenches drawn round it, supposed to be as ancient as the time of the Romans.



Eight miles north-east of Bishops Castle is **CHURCH STRETTON**, which is a town seated on the Roman road, and near it is **LITTLE STRETTON**, placed between several hills, which appear to the right and left, as you proceed along the road from Ludlow to Shrewsbury. Church-Stretton is half a mile in length, and has a good market for corn on Thursdays, with two fairs, held on the 14th of May, and the 24th of September, for horned cattle, sheep, and horses.

Eleven miles north of Church-Stretton is **SHREWSBURY**, or **SHROWSBURY**, which received its name from the ancient Saxon Scrobbes-Byrig, which signifies the town encompassed with shrubs, and was thus called, from the hill upon which it stands, being covered with small trees or shrubs, and is still called, in the ancient British tongue, **Penguerne**, which signifies a brow of alders. This town is supposed by some to have risen from the ruins of an ancient Roman city, at about four miles distance, called **Uriconium**, now reduced to a small village, known by the name of **Wroxeter**. Under the Saxons Shrewsbury was a town of considerable note. In the reign of king Ethelred II. we are told, that the Danes being grown intolerably insolent, oppressed his Saxon subjects, when that king contrived to destroy them at once, and for that purpose sent a commission to all towns and cities, to fall upon the Danes on the 13th of November 1002, which was executed with great severity. Upon this the Danes were determined to take their revenge, and the next year invaded the nation under king Swain, killing the inhabitants, and burning or carrying away their goods. King Ethelred happened to be in Shrewsbury, when the Danes landing in the Isle of Wight, from thence proceeded to ravage Hampshire and Berkshire; upon which he consulted his council about



*The North West View of Shrewsbury Castle.*

*Vol. III. pa. 39.*



about what was to be done, when he was advised to purchase a peace, with thirty thousand pounds weight of silver. They accepted the money, and departed for the present; but returned soon after, and never were at rest till they had set a Danish king on the throne; this was Canute, the son of Swain, just mentioned.

At the time of the Norman conquest Shrewsbury was a well built, populous place. There were two hundred and fifty-two citizens, twelve of whom were bound to keep guard, when the kings of England came thither, and as many were obliged to attend him when he went a hunting. Camden thinks this custom was first occasioned by one Edrick Sueona, a Mercian duke, but a profligate villain, who, a little before had way-laid and slain prince Alfhelm, as he was hunting. At this time there was another custom, according to the same author, that whenever a widow married, she should pay the king twenty shillings, but those women who had never been married before, were to pay him only ten shillings.

Shrewsbury was given by the Conqueror to Roger de Montgomery, who was his principal captain, kinsman and friend, and about the year 1085, built a castle upon an eminence, and for that purpose pulled down about fifty houses. It is built on a rock on the neck of land where the Severn runs on each side; for that river almost encompasses the town. It is very strong considering the time in which it was built, and seems not to have received any very considerable damage. William Fitz Allan defended this castle for the empress Maud, against king Stephen, who took it by assault. Of this structure, which at present belongs to the earl of Bradford, we have given an engraved view. Here was also a mitred abbey,  
founded



founded for the Benedictines, by the same earl, about the year 1083, to the honour of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the church was dedicated to St. Gregory, or, as others say, to St. Giles. In his declining age he quitted a military life, and became a monk here, where he spent the remainder of his days. He endowed this abbey with ample possessions, to which Hugh, his son and heir, gave others, with a heavy curse on the violater. The kings Henry the First and Stephen added to these, and confirmed their former estates and possessions. It had afterwards several other benefactors, and its annual revenues was valued by Dugdale, at 532 l. 4 s. 10 d. but by Speed, at 615 l. 4 s. 3 d. The walls are still standing, and shew that it was formerly a very handsome structure.

Afterwards other churches were built, as well as several convents of Dominican, Franciscan, and Augustin friars; and in particular, two collegiate churches were erected; namely, St. Chads, with a dean and ten prebendaries, and St. Mary's, with a dean and nine minor prebendaries.

Shrewsbury is now one of the most flourishing towns in England, and is delightfully situated on an eminence forty miles south by east of Chester, a hundred and seven north of Bristol, and a hundred and seventy-six north-west of London. It is surrounded by the Severn on every side but the north, which renders it a peninsula, in the form of a horse-shoe. It is walled round, and on the north side, where it is not defended by the river, was fortified by the above castle. The streets are large, and the houses in general well built. It has two bridges over the river, one of which, termed the Welch-bridge, has a very noble gate, and over the arch is the statue of Llewellyn, the last prince of North-Wales; for in this town, the ancient princes of Powis land, or North-Wales,

## S H R O P S H I R E. 41

Wales, usually resided. There are in this town five churches, St. Chad's, St. Mary's, St. Alkman's, St. Julian's, and Holy-Cross, or Abbey-Foregate. Shrewsbury was incorporated by king Charles the First, and is governed by a mayor, a recorder, a steward, a town-clerk, twenty-four aldermen, and forty eight common-councilmen, who have a sword-bearer, three serjeants at mace, and other inferior officers. The corporation have the power of trying causes within themselves, even such as are capital, except in cases of high treason. The burgesses, who have a right of choosing members of parliament, amount to about four hundred and fifty. Here are twelve incorporated trading companies, who every year, on the Monday fortnight after Whitsuntide, repair in their formalities to a place called Kingland, on the south side of the town, and on the opposite bank of the Severn, where they entertain the mayor and corporation in arbors or bowers erected for that purpose, each of which is distinguished by some motto or device, alluding to their several arts. It is said that king Charles the Second offered to erect this town into a city, but that the townsmen chose that it should remain a borough, for which they were afterwards called the Proud Salopians. This town gives the title of earl to the noble family of Talbot.

Here is one of the largest schools in England, first founded and endowed by king Edward, by the name of the Free Grammar-school of king Edward the Sixth. Queen Elizabeth rebuilt it from the ground, and farther endowed it. It is a fine structure, with a very good library, a chapel, and convenient houses for the masters, of which there are three, who have salaries from 30 l. to 100 l. a year, besides three ushers, with salaries from 10 l. to 20 l. a year. The building and endowment

owment are not inferior to those of some colleges of Oxford and Cambridge; and there are several scholarships in the last mentioned university, in favour of this school. Here are also several charity-schools, where a hundred and forty boys, and forty girls are taught, and partly cloathed; besides an elegant hospital for orphan children, a branch of the foundling-hospital in London, lately finished. This last is delightfully situated on a beautiful eminence, from whence you have a fine view of the river Severn, of the fine walks, called the Quarry, from which it is only divided by the river, of Shrewsbury, and the adjoining country. There is likewise an hospital in Frankwell, one of the suburbs of the town, erected and plentifully endowed for the reception and maintenance of several decayed house-keepers, and the cloathing and teaching a number of poor children, at the expence of Mr. Millington, a native of Shrewsbury; and in April 1747, an infirmary was opened for sixty patients, supported by voluntary subscriptions and benefactions. This is a fine edifice, seated in a healthy, airy, and pleasant spot, and is fitted up in the most commodious manner, for the ease and advantage of the patients. The trustees are truly commendable for their regular visits and attention that the charitable design of the contributors may not be frustrated.

The piece of ground called the Quarry, received its name from stones having formerly been dug up there, and is now converted into one of the finest walks in England: it takes in at least twenty acres of ground, on the south and south-west sides of the town: between the walls and the river, it is shaded with a double row of lime-trees, and has a fine double alcove in the center, with seats on one side facing the town, and on the other side facing the river. There are likewise a great variety



variety of most delightful walks in the fields and meadows round Shrewsbury, embellished with romantic and entertaining prospects.

The inhabitants all speak English, though here are many Welch families; but the general language on a market-day is Welch. The plenty of provisions of all sorts, especially salmon and other river fish, with the pleasantness of the town, render it full of gentry, who have assemblies and balls here once a week, all the year round. It is said, that as much Welch cottons, friezes and flannels are sold at the market, as amount to 1000 l. a week, throughout the year, and the town has been long famous for its excellent brawn and cakes. It has three markets, of which those on Wednesdays and Saturdays, are for all sorts of provisions, and that on Thursdays, for Welch cottons, friezes, and many other commodities, great quantities of which are brought up here to be sent to London. Here are also seven fairs, which are held on the Saturday after the 5th of March, the Wednesday after Easter-week, and the Wednesday before Whit-Sunday, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, cheese and linen cloth; on the 3d of July, and the 12th of August, for horned cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, cheese, linen and lambs-wool; on the 2d of October, and the 12th of December, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, butter, cheese and linen.

Besides the religious foundations already mentioned, Elfleda, queen of the Mercians, is said to have founded here a collegiate church, dedicated to St. Alkmund, the son of Alured, king of Northumberland, who was killed in the year 800, but in the reign of king Stephen, the revenues of this church were given to a monastery at Lilleshul, near Wroxeter. In the castle was a collegiate church, or royal free-chapel, dedicated

to



to St. Michael, but its revenues were granted, by king Henry the Fourth, to a college which he founded at Battlefield, about five miles from Shrewsbury. In the east suburb was an hospital for leprous and infirm persons, in the reign of king Henry the Second, dedicated to St. Giles. Here was a house of Grey friars, founded in the reign of king Henry the Third, by Hawise, wife of Charleton, lord Powis, which continued till the general dissolution; and in the west suburb called Frankvile, was an hospital dedicated to St. John, in the reign of Edward the Second, which continued till the general dissolution, when it was valued at 4 l. 10 s. 4 d. per annum.

BATTLEFIELD is seated in a plain about three miles north-north-east of Shrewsbury, where Henry the Fourth vanquished Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur. Here that prince granted to Roger Ive, rector of the chapel of St. John Baptist, at Adbrihton, two acres of land, for building a college upon it for a master and five chaplains, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, together with an hospital for several poor persons. To this college Roger Ive left three chalices of silver gilt, two silver phials, three gilt crosses, three bells to the steeple, with several vestments and books for divine service, and encreased the stipends of each of the five chaplains, upon condition of their praying particularly for the souls of all the faithful slain in the fight of Battlefield. The annual revenues of both these endowments, were valued at the suppression at 26 l. 1 s. 4 d.

At WESTBURY, eight miles to the westward of Shrewsbury, is a fair, held on the 5th of August, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.

HAGHMON, a village four miles north-east of Shrewsbury, had a priory founded in the year 1100, by William Fitz-Allan, for regular canons  
of



*The South View of Acton Burnel Castle, in the County of Salop.*

*Vol. VII. pa. 45.*



of the order of St. Augustine, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. John the Evangelist. It had many endowments and large revenues from time to time conferred upon it by several great men, among whom were some of the Welch princes, all of which were confirmed to the church and canons by Edward the Third. Its revenues were valued at the dissolution by Dugdale at 259*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.* and at about 294*l.* by Speed. Its ruins are pretty large, and shew that it was a spacious and well built, but not a lofty structure.

ACTON BURNEL, a village eight miles south by east of Shrewsbury, is remarkable for a castle, in which was made the statute of Acton Burnel, in the 11th year of the reign of Edward I. confirming and explaining a former act, called the Statute-Merchant: the Lords sat in the castle, but the Commons are said to have sat in a barn, belonging to the monastery of St. Peter and St. Paul at Shrewsbury. This place had its name from the family of Burnel, who possessed it from the reign of William the First, to that of Henry the Fifth, but in the reign of Henry the Sixth, the family of Lovel were lords of Burnel. It was seized by king Henry the Seventh, and given to Jasper, earl of Bedford, and afterwards to Thomas Howard, earl of Surry, afterwards created duke of Norfolk; but it lately belonged to Sir Richard Smythe, Bart. It is a square structure, and at each corner are battlements, as well as on the other walls. It is less defaced than many other old castles; for the shell is pretty entire, which shews, as the reader will see from the annexed view of it, that it has been a handsome, regular structure.

At POWDER-BATCH, or PULVER-BATCH, a village seven miles south-south-west of Shrewsbury, was a castle, of which William de Cantalupe was



was governor in the reign of king John, and it was afterwards the seat of the Butlers, but it is now in ruins. This village has a fair on the 27th of September, for horned cattle, horses and sheep.

WROXETER, a village five miles south-east of Shrewsbury, was, as we have already observed, an ancient station of the Romans: it was the second, if not the first city of the ancient Cornavii, and fortified by the Romans, to secure the ford of the Severn. The wall was about three miles in extent, and from some fragments of it that still remain, the foundation appears to have been nine feet thick. On the outside it had a vast trench, which, in some places, is still very deep. Here are the remains of Roman buildings, now called the Old works of Wroxeter. These are the fragments of a stone wall about a hundred feet long, and twenty feet high in the middle; and some years ago was discovered under ground, a square room, with the roof supported by four rows of small brick pillars, with a double floor of mortar, built in the manner of a sudatory or sweating-house. In and about the town, Roman coins and other antiquities, have been frequently dug up. Among the Roman coins a few are of gold; those of silver are very common, and there are others of copper, brass, and mixed metals; yet scarcely one in ten of the inscriptions is legible, or has an image upon it, that appears plain and distinct. When or how this considerable town was demolished, is not certainly known; but it is remarkable, that among the great number of Roman coins found here, there has not yet been discovered one single piece of Saxon money. However, from the blackness of the soil, and the defaced appearance of most of the coins, it is probable that this place was consumed by fire,

fire, and that this was done before the coming of the Saxons, or in their war with the Britons; for had it been destroyed by the Danes, there would certainly have been Saxon coins mixed with the Roman. What Camden tells us in relation to the bones found here, is undoubtedly a mistake; for it is not at all probable that here were human teeth three inches long, and three inches in circumference; nor yet that the thigh bones were full a yard in length. That bones of these dimensions have been found here, is readily acknowledged; but that they belonged to human bodies, can hardly be allowed by any persons of reflection; besides, the Romans were used to burn their dead, and consequently there is no reason to believe, that any of the bones were left entire. Several Roman urns have also been found here, and in the channel of the Severn, near this place, may be still seen, when the water is low, the remains of a stone bridge.

WREKIN is a hill a little to the east of Wroxeter, which rises to a very great height, and may be seen at many miles distance. From the top of it is a very fine prospect of all the country round, and this being a conspicuous spot, it is usual for the people of Shrewsbury to drink to the health of all their friends round the Wreking. It shoots itself out pretty far in length, and at its foot runs the Severn, on which stands BILDAS, or BULDAS, where was formerly a monastery founded by Roger de Clinton, bishop of Chester, in the year 1135, for monks of the order of Savigny, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. Chad. It had afterwards several noble and generous benefactors, and was valued at the suppression at 110 l. 19 s. 3 d. by Dugdale; but at 129 l. by Speed. Some parts of the walls are still standing, which shew that

that it was a very spacious, lofty, and handsome structure.

OAKENYATE is a small village seated in a low bottom near the Wrekin, where there are rich coal-pits. Some have taken it to be a Roman station called Uxaconae, mentioned in the Itinerary of Antoninus, and particularly Camden, on account of its standing near an ancient Roman highway, and its distance from Wroxeter on one side, and Pennocrucium on the other. But Horsley fixes that station at Sheriff-Hales, on the borders of this county next to Staffordshire; but as there are no remains of Roman antiquities there, it may still be doubted, whether he is right or not.

A little to the north of the Wrekin, and eleven miles from Shrewsbury, is WELLINGTON, which is seated on the road from Litchfield to Shrewsbury; and though a small market town, its parish is about six miles in length, and three and a half in its greatest breadth; it contains fourteen villages, and about four thousand inhabitants. The church is built with rough stone, and dedicated to All Saints. It is covered with slate, and has a large tower steeple on the north side, in which is an excellent ring of six bells, with a clock and chimes. It is a vicarage worth about £40 l. a year. The great Watling-street road runs through the parish, at about half a mile distance from the south side; but no Roman, Saxon, or Danish antiquities have been found in the parish. Coals are so cheap that they are sold at 3 s. 8 d. per ton. The inhabitants of the parish are chiefly employed in getting lime, coal, and iron-stone. There are two furnaces about a mile and a half on the east side of the town, and a steam engine, by means of which, the water that works the bellows at the furnaces, is returned into the pool above:  
this



this engine, which is one of the largest in England, consumes upwards of twenty tons of coals every twenty-four hours; there is another engine about half a mile farther, for draining the water from the coal-pits, but not so large as the former. This town has a market on Thursdays, and three fairs, held on the 29th of March, the 22d of June, and the 17th of November, for horses, horned cattle, sheep and swine.

Three miles east of Wellington is WOMBRI~~GE~~GE, or WAMBRIDGE, a village, in which was a monastery of regular canons, of the order of St. Austin, founded by William Fitz-Allan of Clun, and dedicated to St. Mary and St. Leonard. It had afterwards several benefactors, and at the dissolution had a prior and three or four religious, whose revenues were valued at 65 l. 7 s. 4 d. a year by Dugdale, but at 93 l. by Speed.

ALBRIGHTON, a village three miles south-east of Shifnal, is only remarkable for having three fairs, held on May 23, July 18, and November 19, for horned cattle, sheep and swine.

NEWPORT is seated on the borders of Staffordshire, seven miles north-east of Wellington, and four miles to the north of the above road. The town was incorporated in the reign of king Henry the First, but never sent members to parliament. It chiefly consists of one long wide street, which would appear to more advantage, if the market-house, cross, and church, did not, in some measure, spoil the view. There are many good houses in the town, but it has no manufacture carried on in it, the inhabitants depending chiefly on travellers, as the road from Chester to London passes through it. The church was once collegiate, it being founded by one Draper, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, who purchased lands from the



abbot of Shrewsbury, for the maintenance of a warden and four priests. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and consists of a nave, a chancel, and two side isles. At the west end is a tower, with a clock and six bells. The church is now a perpetual curacy.

There is an ancient alms-house in the church-yard, founded by Thomas Reynolds, canon residentiary of Litchfield, and John his brother, canon of York, for four poor people, now given to widows only, who have a room, and about 4 l. 10 s. a year. It has a free grammar-school, founded by Mr. William Adams, a native of the town, and a haberdasher of London. The building, which is of brick, with the window-cases of free-stone, is seventy feet long, and twenty-two broad. Over it is a handsome library, and at the south end is a house for the master, who had a salary of 60 l. a year, which is now said to be worth 100 l. At the north end are lodgings for the usher, who has 30 l. a year. He also erected near the school two alms-houses for poor people, with a competent maintenance, and gave 550 l. towards building a town-house. Here is also an English free-school for the poor children of the town, endowed by a private gentleman with 20 l. a year, to which the town has made an addition of 5 l. a year. One Mr. John Symmonds agreed with the lord of the manor of Church Aston, to enclose a spring, called the Wall-head, from whence he conveyed the water in leaden pipes to Newport, and built six reservoirs in the town for the water, he also left a piece of land, worth about 11 l. a year, to keep the pipes in repair.

On the 30th of August, a festival is kept in memory of the above Mr. Adams; and there is a traditional account in Newport, that Charles the  
Second

Second being informed what large sums Mr. Adams had expended in charitable uses, expressed a desire to see him, when he was on a visit in the city; and Mr. Adams being introduced to his majesty, the king asked him, whether he had not straitened his fortune by his great benefactions? Mr. Adams replied, that he had not, and if his majesty pleased, he would present him with 1000 l. provided he would procure an act of parliament to exempt his land from taxes, to which the king consented. Whether this be true or not, it is certain, that such an act was passed, and that his estates are now free from taxes. On the 19th of May, 1665, a dreadful fire happened at Newport, by which one hundred and sixty-two families were burnt out of their houses, and the damage was computed to amount to 30,000 l. The town has a market on Saturdays, and four fairs, held on the Saturday before Palm-Sunday, the 28th of May, and the 27th of July, for horned cattle, sheep and horses; and on the 10th of December, for horned cattle, sheep, horses and fat cattle.

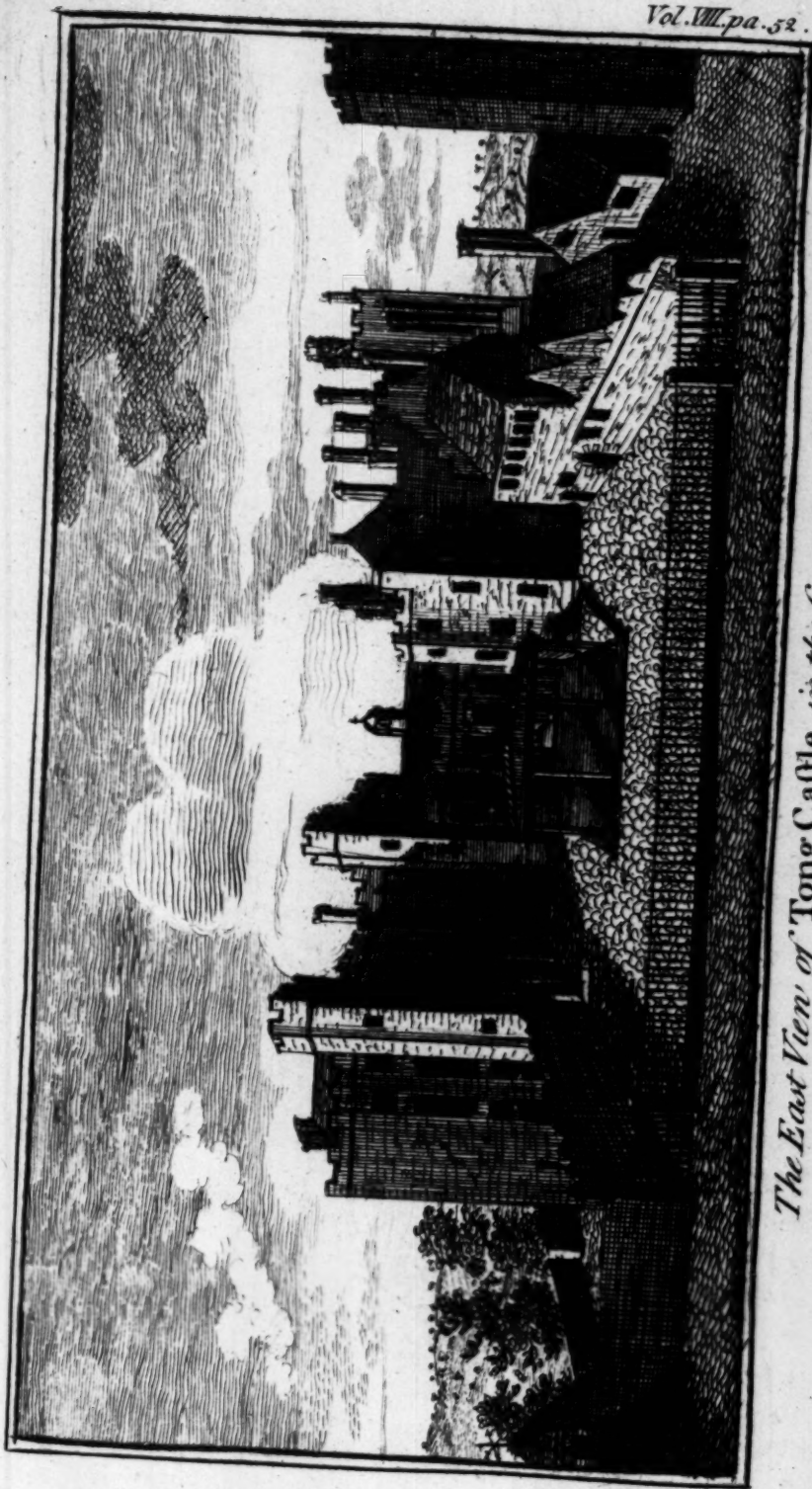
At LILLESUL, a village three miles south-west of Newport, was once a church, built, as is supposed, by Adelfleda, queen of the Mercians, and dedicated to St. Almond, a progenitor of the family from whence king Edgar proceeded; which last named king, enlarged and endowed it with ten prebends. In St. Stephen's reign, Richard Beaumeys, dean of this church, by the king's consent, gave it to the canons regular, who came from St. Peter's in Dorchester, and a monastery was then founded, about the year 1140, to the honour of the Virgin Mary. It had afterwards several benefactors, and the laurel leaves in the hands of two statues, on the Gothic pillars at the gate, shew it to have been long in the honour-

able family of the Levesons, which became at length united by marriage with the noble family of Gower, who now possess it. It was valued at the dissolution at 229 l. 3 s. a year by Dugdale, but at 327 l. 10 s. by Speed. Its remains shew that it was once a spacious and handsome structure.

SHIFNAL, or SHEFNAL, is a town seated near the eastern side of the county, in the road to Wolverhampton, seventeen miles east by south of Shrewsbury, and nine miles north by east of Bridgenorth. It contains nothing remarkable; but has two fairs, held on the 5th of August, for horned cattle, horses, sheep and swine, and on the 22d of November, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, swine and hops.

TONG is a considerable village three miles east of Shifnal, that has an ancient castle, which in the Saxon times belonged to the family of Morcar, earls of Northumberland; but soon after the conquest it changed its masters, and passed thro' several hands, till at length it came to the Veres, earls of Oxford, and it now belongs to the noble family of the Pierpoints, and is in the possession of the duke of Kingston. The present structure cannot be that built in the time of the Saxons; for though it is in the form of a castle, yet it is erected in a more modern taste, and is a spacious, handsome, and beautiful seat, though the greatest part of it has battlements at the top. Of this edifice we have given the reader an engraved view.

Tong had also a collegiate church, founded in the reign of Henry the Fourth, by Isabel, widow of Fulke de Penbrugge, knight, and others, to whom that king granted his licence to purchase of the abbey of Shrewsbury, the advowson of the church of St. Bartholomew at Tong, and to erect it into a college of five chaplains, of which one should



*The East View of Tong Castle, in the County of Salop.*





should be the custos, and to endow it with lands and churches for the maintenance of the custos and chaplains, with thirteen poor people, more or less. Henry the Fifth, in the third year of his reign, declared, that all the alien priories being given to him and his heirs, by an act made in a parliament held at Leicester, he granted to the custos and chaplain of this college, the priory of Lapley in Staffordshire, with all its revenues, which had hitherto been part of the possessions of the abbey of St. Remegius, at Rheims in France. The revenues of the collegiate church of Tong, were valued at the suppression at 45 l. 9 s. 10 d. a year. This church consists of a nave, two side isles, a cross isle in the choir, in which are still remaining eight stalls on each side. There is also a chantry on the south side of the church; and on the north side of the choir another detached building, now used as a vestry. The steeple is in the middle of the church, and consists of a lofty tower, with a spire upon it. In this steeple are six bells, besides the great-bell, which weighs forty-eight hundred weight, and a small bell. In this church are several handsome monuments, among which is one on the north side of the choir, for Sir Thomas Stanley, the seventh son of the earl of Derby, and his lady, which is much defaced by time, there being four marble figures on the top of the monument, but all broke. At the head are these lines :

Not monumental stone preserves our fame,  
 Nor sky-aspiring pyramids our name.  
 The memory of him for whom this stands  
 Shall out-live marble and defacer's hands,  
 When all to Time's consumption shall be given,  
 Stanley, for whom this stands, shall stand in  
 Heaven.

And at the feet,

Ask who lies here, but do not weep,  
He is not dead, he doth but sleep:  
This stony register is for his bones,  
His fame is more perpetual than these stones.  
And his own goodness, with himself, being gone,  
Shall live when earthly monument is none.

Tong is now a perpetual curacy, and the duke of Kingston allows the minister 80*l.* per annum. At the west end of the church are alms-houses, founded by some of the Harris's family, for six poor widows, who have forty shillings, a shift and gown, per annum.

Eleven miles south-east of Shrewsbury is GREAT WENLOCK, which is so called, to distinguish it from a village in its neighbourhood, known by the name of Little Wenlock. It is also distinguished by the name of MUCH WENLOCK. It is seated on the road from Bridgenorth to Shrewsbury; it has two ill-built streets, and standing low, is so dirty, that strangers, by way of derision, call it Muck Wenlock. The church consists of a nave, a chancel, one isle, which is on the south side, and a tower with a spire. Sir Watkins Williams Wynne is the patron. Wenlock is a borough, which, together with Braseley and Little Wenlock, sends two members to parliament. This town was famous in the reign of Richard the Second, for a copper mine, as it is now for its quarries of lime-stone. It is an ancient corporation, governed under its charter, granted by Charles the First, by a bailiff, who is justice of the peace, and of the quorum, a recorder, two other justices of the peace, and twelve bailiffs-peers, or capital burgessees.

In

In the Saxon times Wenlock was very remarkable for a nunnery, in which St. Milburga, the niece of Welfhere, king of Mercia, lived and died abbess, and was afterwards canonized for the holy life she led there; but this house going totally to decay, Roger de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, erected an abbey in its place, for the monks of Cluni, and dedicated the church to St. Milburga. It had afterwards several benefactors, till at length its revenue came to be so considerable, as to be valued, at the dissolution of religious houses, at 401 l. 1 s. 7 d. a year, by Dugdale; and at 434 l. by Speed. There are very large remains of this abbey, which shew that it was extremely spacious and very beautiful, though no one part of it is at present left entire. Of these venerable remains we have given the reader an engraved view. The adjacent country being very populous, Wenlock has a good market on Mondays, with four fairs, held on the 12th of May, for horses, horned cattle and sheep; on July 5, for sheep; on the 17th of October, and the 4th of December, for horses, horned cattle, sheep and swine.

We shall now proceed seven miles farther south-east to BRIDGENORTH, or BRUGMORFE, which is twenty miles south-east of Shrewsbury, and, according to Camden, ought to be called Burgmorfe, from Burg and Morfe, a forest adjoining thereto; but the annotator on Camden asserts, that he is mistaken, affirming, that Brugmorfe is a name of late use, it having been called Bridge, in ancient records, and that north was given to it, on account of some bridge over the Severn to the south. This town is situated twenty-one miles south-east of Shrewsbury, twenty-six west-north-west of Birmingham, and a hundred and thirty-six north-west of London. It is said to have been built in the



year 582, by Ethelfleda, queen of the Mercians, and widow of king Ethelred. It was afterwards walled round by Robert de Belesme, the son of Robert de Montgomery, so often mentioned, who likewise added to the strength of the place, by building a castle. Depending on these fortifications, he afterwards rebelled against Henry the First, and made a stand here, but he was soon obliged to make his escape, and fly the kingdom. There was also a chapel within the castle, which, in after times was converted into a collegiate church, for a dean and six prebendaries. The town and castle being forfeited by this rebellion, came into the possession of the crown, but how long it continued so is uncertain. The castle is now demolished, and the forest of Morfe is a common.

Bridgenorth is a large and populous place, pleasantly situated in a healthy air. It had several privileges granted it by charters from Henry the Second, and king John, and is governed by two bailiffs, annually elected out of twenty-four aldermen, by a jury of fourteen men, together with a recorder, forty-eight common-councilmen, a town-clerk and other officers. The greatest part of it stands upon a rock, on the western bank of the Severn, which has here a very great fall. These two parts are called the Upper and Lower towns, which are separated by the river Severn, but united by a stone bridge of seven arches, upon which is a gate and gate-house, with several other houses. The higher town stands upon a hill, which rises from the west bank of the river, sixty yards in height, and most of the cellars are caves hewn out of the rock; however, only a part of the town is built on this ascent, for the main body stands on a plain. There is a long street, with turnings and windings leading to the bridge, up to the heart of the town, with ranges of building  
continued

continued on each side. Besides this winding street, a hollow way leads down to the bridge, that is much admired by strangers, it being hewn thro' the rock, to the depth of twenty feet; and tho' the declivity is very great, yet the way is rendered easy by steps and rails. The lower part is called Underhill-street, from its lying under the Castle-hill. The middle part, the cart way, and the upper part, called Cowgate-street, have on one side a perpendicular rock for its front, out of which, for some space, are houses cut in such a manner, as not to disgrace the street, and on their roofs are either pathways or gardens. On the top of the hill is a fine large street, well paved, as indeed are all the rest: it has handsome buildings on each side, with piazzas, which the inhabitants call Stalls, in which people may walk dry in bad weather.

Here are two churches, one of which is a large, handsome structure, with neat pews; and at the east end is a pleasant walk, shaded with elm-trees, from whence there is a delightful prospect. At the south end of the High-street is that part, now called the Castle, which lies within the walls of the old castle, and contains two streets, united at the castle-gate, from whence they separate, and extending to a considerable length, reach to the wall of the yard of the ancient college church, and of several large gardens. Those on the east side of the castle have some remains of the old castle walls for their fence; but no part of the old castle is standing, except part of a tower, which has many years continued to lean in so surprizing a manner, that a stranger cannot see it, without expecting it to fall every moment. Some part of the ground, on which the castle stood, is converted into a fine bowling-green, and upon the brow of the castle-

hill, is a very pleasant walk, that affords a delightful prospect, particularly of the Lower Town, which is beautified with several stately structures, and handsome gardens, as also of the Severn, which flows through a rich valley of flowery meadows, bounded with pastures and fruitful fields. There is also near the old castle a remarkable mount, which resembles a small Roman encampment, and appears to have been encompassed with entrenchments.

The Lower Town consists of three well built streets; one of them, called St. John's-street, had a religious house, dedicated to St. John Baptist, which was founded by Ralph le Strange, in the reign of king Richard the First, for a prior, a master, and several lay-brethren, and dedicated to the Trinity, St. Mary, and St. John Baptist, but in the time of Edward the Fourth, was given to the abbey of Lilleshul. Here was also a house of Grey friars, founded by John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, and valued at the suppression at 4 l. per annum.

Besides the two churches already mentioned, Bridgenorth has several meeting houses, and a free school for the sons of the burgessees, founded in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and an hospital for ten poor widows.

On the castle-hill is a pleasant spring, which is esteemed an excellent remedy for sore eyes; and upon the brow of the upper hill of Morfe is an old cave, supposed to have been an hermit's cell, which has therefore gained the name of the hermitage. The air of this town is so good, that many of the inhabitants live to a great age; for which reason people resort hither for the recovery of their health. It is supplied with good water by leaden pipes, from a spring half a mile distant; and the water of the Severn is also thrown up to the

the top of Castle-hill by an engine, like that at London-bridge. There are several good mills belonging to the town, built upon a little river called the Worfe, which discharges itself into the Severn.

This town had several benefactors, for different purposes, and at different times. It sends two members to parliament, who are elected by the burgesses, and has a market on Saturdays, well supplied with corn, and the other necessities of life. Its fairs, which are very considerable, are the Thursday before Shrove-Tuesday, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, hops, cheese, linen and woollen cloth, and wick-yarn; on the 30th of June, for all the above articles, besides considerable quantities of sheep's wool; on the 2d of August, for the same articles, together with lamb's wool; and on the 29th of October, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, salt, butter and cheese.

Before we take leave of this place, it will be proper to take notice, that the town and castle have been several times fortified and besieged. We have already observed, that it was taken by king Henry the First, who besieged it in person. King Charles the First put a garrison into the town, and it was besieged by the parliament army: in this siege the High Town suffered very much, it being fired three times; and in the last, which happened in April 1764, a great part of it was burnt to the ground, with St. Leonard's church, a very fine structure, as also a large ancient edifice, called the College, adjoining to St. Leonard's church-yard.

To the north-east of Bridgenorth, on the borders of Staffordshire, is BOSCOBEL house and grove, famous for concealing Charles the Second, after his defeat at Worcester, in which that prince eluded the search of the troops sent in pursuit of



him. In the night his majesty was concealed in the house, and towards morning was conducted to the grove, where he and colonel Carlos concealed themselves in the top of a large oak, whence he saw a troop of horse, sent in search of him, diverted to another side of the grove by an owl, which flew out of a neighbouring tree, and fluttered along the ground, as if it had broke its wings. The tree which concealed his majesty, from thence obtained the name of the royal oak, and was afterwards inclosed with a wall, but the trunk is almost cut away in the middle by travellers; however, close by the side grows a young oak from one of its acorns. Over the door of the inclosure is a Latin inscription cut in marble, which has been thus translated :

Bazil and Jane Fitz-Herbert recommends to posterity this most fortunate tree, which the All-gracious and All-mighty, by whom Kings reign, ordained here to grow, to be the asylum of the most potent prince king Charles the Second, and have begirt it with a wall, as well in perpetual remembrance of so great an event, as a testimony of their firm allegiance to kings.

The Oak beloved by Jove.

Eleven miles to the southward of Bridgnorth is CLEOBURY, or CLEBURY, which is seated on the north bank of the river Temd, and has a market on Wednesdays, with two fairs, held on the 2d of May, and the 27th of October, for horned cattle, sheep and hogs. Here was a castle built by Hugh, the son of Roger de Montgomery, earl of Shrewsbury, who, as we have already observed, endeavoured to hinder king Henry the Second from keeping possession of the crown, and for this purpose fortified all his castles, among which was this of Cleobury; but it was besieged and

and taken by the king, who levelled it with the ground, infomuch, that there are now scarce any remains of it.

Not far from this town there is a hill near the northern bank of the Temd, famous for producing the best pit-coal, and veins of iron, and upon it are some remains of an ancient camp.

HALES-OWEN is a town seated in a small district belonging to this county, but is entirely surrounded by Staffordshire. It is a pretty neat place, that has a market on Mondays, and two fairs, held on the Monday after Easter Monday, for horses and toys; and on the 27th of June, for horses, horned cattle and sheep. Here was formerly an abbey, of the Premonstratensian order, founded by Peter de Rupibus, bishop of Winchester, who had the manor and advowson of the church of Hales given him by king John, for that purpose; the estate was confirmed to the monks by king Henry the Third. It received after this, many additional benefactions from several bishops and others; and at the dissolution its annual revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 280 l. 13 s. 2 d. but according to Speed, to 337 l. 15 s. 6 d. Of this structure we have given the reader an engraved view.

Adam Littleton, an eminent scholar of the seventeenth century, was born November the 8th, 1627, at Hales-Owen, and educated first at Westminster-school, under the famous Dr. Busby, and afterwards at Christ-church-college in Oxford, from which he was ejected in 1648, by the parliamentary visitors. Soon after he became one of the ushers, and then second master of Westminster-school; and upon the restoration of king Charles the Second, he was appointed chaplain in ordinary to that monarch, rector of Chelsea, prebendary and sub-dean of West-

Westminster, and minister of St. Botolph, Aldersgate. He departed this life on the 30th of June, 1694, and was buried in his own church at Chelsea, where a decent monument was erected to his memory. His works are, *Linguae Latinae Liber Dictionarius*; *Tragico-Comaedia Oxoniensis*; *Elementa Religionis in usum Scholarum*; *sixty one Sermons*, &c. &c.

In the parish of Hales-Owen is the LEASOWES, the seat of the late ingenious William Shenstone, Esq; who laid out the gardens in such a manner, as to improve the beauties of nature, and render them the admiration of all who have had the pleasure of seeing them. On quitting the road from Birmingham to Bewdley, about half a mile short of Hales-Owen, you turn into a green lane on the left, where, descending to the bottom of a valley finely shaded, the first object that occurs, is a ruined wall, inscribed the priory gate, whence passing into a fine swelling lawn that surrounds the house, you enter a winding path, with a piece of water on your right. The path and water, overshadowed with trees, form a scene, at once cool, solemn, and sequestered; which is so striking a contrast to the lively scene you have just left, that you seem suddenly landed in a subterraneous region. Winding down the valley, you pass beside a small root-house, where these lines are inscribed on a tablet:

Here in cool grot, and mossy cell,  
We rural fays and faeries dwell;  
Though rarely seen by mortal eye,  
When the pale moon ascending high,  
Darts thro' your limes her quiv'ring beams,  
We frisk it near these crystal streams.

Her beams reflected from the wave,  
Afford the light our revels crave;

The

The turf with daisies broider'd o'er,  
Exceeds we wot the Parian floor ;  
Nor yet for artful strains we call,  
But listen to the waters fall.

Would you then taste our tranquil scene,  
Be sure your bosoms be serene ;  
Devoid of hate, devoid of strife,  
Devoid of all that poisons life :  
And much it 'vails you in their place,  
'To graft the love of human race.

And tread with awe these favour'd bowers,  
Nor wound the shrubs, nor bruise the flowers ;  
So may your path with sweets abound !  
So may your couch with rest be crown'd !  
But harm betide the wayward swain,  
Who dares our hallow'd haunts profane.

You now pass through the priory gate, and enter a part of the valley, somewhat different from the former, amidst tall trees, high irregular ground, and rugged seats. The right presents a natural cascade, the left a sloping grove of oaks, and the center, a pretty circular landscape appearing thro' the trees, of which Hales-Owen steeple, and other distant objects, form an interesting part. Proceeding a few paces down the valley you come to a bench, where you have the cascade in front, which, together with the internal arch, and other appendages, form a pretty irregular picture. The stream now attends you with its agreeable murmurs, as you descend along this pleasing valley, to a small seat, where is a sloping grove on the right, and on the left a striking vista to Hales-Owen steeple, which is here seen in a new light. You now descend farther down this sequestered valley, accompanied on the right by the same brawling rivulet, running over pebbles, till it falls into a fine piece of water at the bottom. The path



path now winding to the left, conforms to the above water, running round the foot of a small hill, and accompanying this semicircular lake into another winding valley, somewhat more open, and not less pleasing than the former. But before you enter this, it is proper to mention a seat about the middle of this water-scene, where the ends of it are lost in the two vallies on each side. The back ground of this scene is very beautiful, and exhibits a picture of villages, and varied ground, finely held up to the eye.

You now leave the priory on the left, and proceed through the other valley, till, by a pleasing serpentine walk, you enter a narrow glade, the slopes on each side finely covered with oaks and beaches; on the left of which is a bench, that affords a retiring place, secluded from every eye, and a short respite, during which the eye reposes on a fine amphitheatre of wood. You now proceed to a seat, beneath a fine canopy of spreading oak, on the back of which is the following inscription:

*Huc ades; O Meliboeë! caper tibi salvus, & hoedi,  
Et si quid cessare potes, requiesce sub umbra.*

The picture, in front, is that of a beautiful home scene; a small lawn of well varied ground, encompassed with hills, and well grown oaks, and embellished with a cast of a piping Faunus, amidst trees and shrubs, on a slope upon the left; and on the right, and nearer the eye, with an urn, on which is this inscription:

INGENIO ET AMICITIAE  
GULIELMI SOMERVILLE.

And on the other side,

G. S. POSUIT.

Debita Spargens lacrima favillam.

Vatis amici.

The

The scene is, on all sides, inclosed by trees, except in the middle, where is an opening, through which the lawn winds out of sight.

You are here led through a gate, by a thicket of many sorts of willows, into a large root-house, inscribed to the earl of Stamford, from whence the principal object is another cascade. Other cascades may have the advantage of a larger torrent, and a greater descent, but a more natural, wild, and romantic appearance of water, for a hundred and fifty yards together, is perhaps nowhere to be seen. Proceeding through the right hand path, the next seat affords a scene, which Mr. Shenstone used to term, his forest ground, consisting of wild green slopes, peeping through dingle, or irregular groups of trees, a confused mixture of savage and uncultivated ground, forming a landscape fit for the pencil of Salvator Rosa. Winding along beside this lawn, which is over-arched with spreading trees, and passing through a kind of thicket, you arrive at a natural bower of almost circular oaks, inscribed to Mr. Robert Dodsley, in the following lines.

Come then, my friend, thy Sylvan taste display,  
Come hear thy Faunus tune his rustic lay;  
Ah! rather come, and in these dells disown  
The care of other strains, and tune thine own.

On the bank above, amidst the shrubs, is a statue of the piping Faunus, which, not only embellishes this scene, but is seen from the court before the house, and other places. It is surrounded by venerable oaks, and from this bower you also look down on the above-mentioned irregular ground, on all sides shut up with trees, except a few openings to the more pleasing parts of this grotesque and hilly country.

The

The next little bench affords the first, but not the most striking view of the priory, which, tho' a small building, being seen beneath the trees, and its extremity hid by them, it has the dignity and solemn appearance of a large edifice. Now passing through a gate, you enter a small open grove, where the first seat affords a picturesque view, through the trees of a clump of oaks at a distance, overshadowing a small cottage, upon a green eminence. You then enter a perfect dome, or circular temple of magnificent beeches, in the center of which it was intended to place an antique altar, or a statue of Pan. The path serpentinizing through this open grove, leads by an easy ascent to a small bench, with a motto from Horace, alluding to the retired situation of the place. Through an opening to the left, is seen a pleasing landscape of a distant hill, with a whited farm-house upon the summit, and to the right, a beautiful round slope, crowned with a clump of large firs, with a pyramidal seat on its center. Here, on an urn, is an inscription to the memory of Mr. Shenstone's brother. But you first come to another, and more advantageous view of the priory, to which the eye is led down a green slope, in a most agreeable manner, through a scenery of tall oaks, the grove you have just passed on one side, and a hill of trees and thickets on the other, conducting the eye to a narrow opening, through which it appears.

You now ascend to a small bench, where the circumjacent country begins to open, and a glass house appears between two large clumps of trees, at about four miles distance. On ascending to the next seat, which is in the Gothic form, the scene gradually grows more extended; woods and lawns, hills and vallies, thickets and plains, are agreeably intermingled. On the back of this seat  
is

is a long and beautiful inscription, of which we shall here give only the three first verses:

Shepherd, would'st thou here obtain,  
Pleasure unalloy'd with pain?  
Joy that suits the rural sphere?  
Gentle shepherd, lend an ear.

Learn to relish calm delight,  
Verdant vales and fountains bright;  
Trees that nod on sloping hills,  
Caves that echo tinckling rills.

If thou canst no charm disclose,  
In the simplest bud that blows,  
Go, forsake thy plain and fold,  
Join the crowd, and toil for gold.

Now passing through a wicket, the path winds up the back part of a circular hill, discovering little of the country, till you enter a clump of stately firs on its summit. These over-arch an octagonal seat, the back of which forms a table or pedestal, for a bowl, inscribed, "To all friends round the Wrekin," which hill appears full in front, at the distance of about thirty miles. The scene is here very beautiful, it being divided by the firs into several compartments, each answering to the sides of the octagonal seat, and to every one is allotted a sufficient number of striking objects, to form a complete picture. Hence the path winds between two benches, each of which exhibits a pleasing landscape. Here passing thro' a small thicket, you soon enter a cavity in the hill filled with trees, in the center of which is a seat, from whence is discovered, gleaming across the trees, a considerable length of the serpentine stream, running under a slight rustic bridge to the right. Hence you ascend a kind of Gothic alcove, looking down a slope, flanked with large oaks,



oaks, and tall beaches, which together over-arch the scene. On the back of this structure is an inscription, which begins thus :

O you that bathe in courtlye blyffe,  
 Or toyle in fortune's giddy spheare;  
 Do not too rashlye deeme amyffe,  
 Of him that bydes contented here.

Below this alcove, you see a large sloping lawn, finely bounded, crossed by the serpentine stream, and interspersed with oaks, single and in clumps, at agreeable distances; and farther on the scene is finely varied. On passing from hence through a wicket you enter another lawn, beyond which are wild shaggy precipices, hanging coppice ground, and smooth round hills between. In the center of this lawn before you is discovered the house, half hid with trees and bushes. A little hanging wood, and a piece of winding water, which issues thro' a noble clump of large oaks and spreading beeches. At about ten or twelve miles distance appear lord Stamford's ground, and beyond these the Clee hills. Hence, passing still along the top of the lawn, you cross another gate, and begin to descend into the valley. About half way down is a small bench, which throws the eye upon a near scene of hanging woods, and shaggy wild declivities, intermixed with smooth green slopes, and scenes of cultivation.

Returning into the greater lawn at the bottom you soon come to a seat, which gives a nearer view of the above-mentioned water, between the trunks of high overshadowing oaks and beeches; beyond which, the line of trees is continued down the valley to the right. At a distance to the left, appears the top of Clent hill, and the house upon a swell, amidst trees and bushes. In the center the eye is carried down a length of lawn, till it rests upon

upon the town and spire of Hales, with some beautiful picturesque ground rising behind them. Somewhat out of the path, is a noble clump of stately beeches, in the center of which is a seat, inscribed to Mr. Spence.

Now passing through a small gate, you enter the Lover's walk, and proceed to a seat, where the water is seen at full length so agreeably shaped, and its bounds so well concealed, that you may receive less pleasure from many lakes of greater extent. On one side, the margin is fringed with alders; on the other, over-hung with stately oaks and beeches; and the middle beyond the water presents the Hales-Owen scene, with a group of houses on the slope behind, and the horizon well fringed with wood. Winding a few paces round the water's edge, you come to another small bench, which presents the former scene somewhat varied, with the addition of a whited village, among trees upon a hill. Proceeding on, you enter the pleasing gloom of this agreeable walk, and come to a bench, beneath a spreading beech, that over-hangs both the walk and waters, which has been called the Affignation seat. Here the path begins gradually to ascend, beneath a depth of shade, by the side of which is a small bubbling rill, rolling over pebbles, or falling down in small cascades, all under cover, and taught to murmur very agreeably. This soft and pensive scene, stiled the Lover's walk, is terminated by an ornamented urn, inscribed to Miss Dolman, a beautiful and amiable relation of Mr. Shenstone's, who died of the small-pox, at about twenty-one years of age. The ascent from hence winds up to another seat, where the eye is thrown over a rough scene of broken and furry ground, upon a piece of water in the flat, whose extremities are concealed behind trees and shrubs, amongst which  
the

the house appears. The path still winds under cover up the hill, the steep declivity of which is somewhat eased by its serpentine sweep, till you come to a small bench, where the eye looking down a slope, beneath the spreading arms of oak and beech trees, passes first over some rough furry ground, then over water, to the large swelling lawn, in the center of which the house is discovered, among trees and thickets. This forms the fore-ground. Beyond this appears a swell of waste furry land, diversified with a cottage, and a road that winds behind a farm-house, and a fine clump of trees. The back scene is a semicircular range of hills, diversified with wood, scenes of cultivation and enclosures, to about four or five miles distance. Still winding up into the wood, you come to a seat, with an opening through the trees, to a bridge of five piers, crossing a large piece of water, at about half a mile distance. The next seat looks down from a considerable height, along the side of a steep precipice, upon some irregular and pleasing ground.

You now suddenly turn into a long, strait walk in the wood, arched over with tall trees, and terminated by a small rustic building. In the midst of this avenue, you find a lofty Gothic seat, whence you look down a slope, through the wood on each side. This view is, indeed, a fine one, the eye first travelling down over well variegated ground, into the valley, where is a large piece of water. From thence the ground rises gradually, to the top of Clent hill, and the landscape is enriched with a view of Hales-Owen, the late lord Dudley's house, and a large wood, belonging to lord Littelton. Hence you proceed to the rustic building just mentioned, which is a slight, unexpensive edifice, formed of rough, unhewn stone, called the Temple of Pan, it having a trophy of the  
Tibia

Tibia and Syrinx, with an inscription from Virgil over the entrance. Hence mounting through this dark, umbrageous walk, you enter at once upon a lightfome, high, and natural terrace, whence the eye is thrown over all the scene you have viewed before, with many additional ones, and the whole magnificent scene, finely terminated by the Clee-hills, the Wrekin, and the Welch mountains, at a prodigious distance.

Hence returning back into the wood, and crossing Pan's temple, you go directly down the slope, into another part of Mr. Shenstone's ground, till you reach a seat under a noble beech, that presents a rich variety of fore-ground; and, at about half a mile distance, a Gothic alcove on a hill, well covered with woods, a pretty cottage under trees, in the more distant part of the concave, and a farm-house on the right, all picturesque objects. The next seat affords pretty much the same scenes, a little enlarged, with the addition of that remarkable clump of trees, called Frankly-Beeches, adjoining to the old family seat of the Lytteltons, and from whence the present lord Lyttelton derives his title. You now come to a handsome Gothic screen, backed with a clump of firs, which throws the eye in front, full upon a cascade in the valley, issuing from beneath a dark shade of poplars. The house appears in the center of a large swelling lawn, bushed with trees and thickets. The pleasing variety of easy swells and hollows, bounded by scenes less smooth and cultivated, affords a most delightful picture of domestic retirement and tranquility.

You now descend to a seat inscribed to lord Lyttelton, which presents a beautiful view of a valley, gradually contracted, and ending in a group of most magnificent oaks and beeches. The right hand side is enlivened with two cascades, and a winding



winding stream seen at intervals, between tufts of trees and woodland. To the left appears the above-mentioned hanging-wood, with a Gothic screen on the slope in the center. Winding still downwards, you come to a small seat, where one of the offices of the house, and a view of a cottage on very high ground, is seen over the tops of the trees of the grove in the adjacent valley. The next seat exhibits another view of the same valley, the water gliding calmly along betwixt two seeming groves, without any cascade.

You now descend to a beautiful gloomy scene, called Virgil's grove, not easy to be described. At the entrance you pass by a small obelisk, with an inscription in honour of Virgil. Before it is a bench, where some of the objects are seen again, but in a different point of light. The whole scene is dark and gloomy, consisting of a small deep valley, inclosed by irregular tufts of hazle and other underwood, and the whole over-shadowed with lofty trees, rising out of the bottom of the valley, through which a copious stream runs between mossy banks, enamelled with primroses, and a variety of wild wood-flowers. The first seat you approach is inscribed to the celebrated poet Mr. Thomson. This seat is placed upon a steep bank, on the edge of the valley, from which the eye is drawn down into the flat below, by the light that glimmers in front, and by the sound of various cascades, by which the winding stream is agreeably broken. Opposite to this seat the ground rises again to a kind of dripping fountain, where a small rill trickles down a rude niche of rock-work, thro' fern, liver-wort, and aquatic weeds; and winding under a bridge of one arch, falls into a small lake, which catches it below. On the left is seen one of the most beautiful cascades imaginable, through a kind of vista or glade, down a precipice,

precipice, over-arched with trees. You now proceed to a seat at the bottom of a large root, on the side of a slope, and on this seat is a very elegant inscription, which begins thus:

O let me haunt this peaceful shade;  
Nor let ambition e'er invade;  
The tenants of this leafy bower,  
That shun her paths, and slight her power.

The view from hence is a tranquil scene of water, gliding through sloping ground, with a sketch of the small lake below. Farther on you lose the sight of the water, and only hear the noise. You now suddenly turn upon the high cascade: the scene around is quite a grotto of native stone, and roots of trees. From hence a shady path on the left winds up to the head of the cascade, and you pass by the river by which it is supplied, in your way to the house. You then enter the shrubbery, by which the building is half surrounded, where you find two seats, inscribed to two of Mr. Shenstone's most particular friends. On entering this shrubbery, the first object that strikes is a Venus de Medicis, by the side of a basin of gold-fish, encompassed with shrubs, and illustrated by a very elegant inscription on the Modest Venus. From hence an opening appears down the valley, over a lawn well edged with oaks, to a piece of water, crossed by a considerable bridge, which, with the steeple of Hales, and a village amidst trees, form on the whole a very pleasing picture. Thus winding through flowering shrubs, by the side of a menagerie for doves, you are conducted to the house.

We shall now return back to Shrewsbury, and taking the road which leads north west, proceed to DRAYTON, a town seated on the river Tern, twenty miles north-north-east of Shrewsbury. It

is a little obscure place, which has a market on Wednesdays, and three fairs, held on the Wednesday before Palm-Sunday, the 19th of September, and the 24th of October, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, hempen and woollen cloth. Some authors have been inclined to think, that Drayton was a Roman station, and Mr. Horsley supposes that this was the ancient Mediolanum, or that it was situated very near it; for he observes, that if that station be fixed on the river Tern, not far from Drayton, the distances every way mentioned in Antoninus's Itinerary, will answer with sufficient exactness. He is of opinion, that the Roman station stood on the east side of the river Tern, on a slip of land made by that and another stream. We find nothing very remarkable in modern history relating to this town, except a bloody battle that was fought near it, between the houses of York and Lancaster, in the thirty-seventh year of the reign of Henry the Sixth, in which above two thousand men were killed, though neither side is said to have got the victory.

ATHERLEY is a village three miles north of Drayton, and was formerly so considerable, as to have a market and fair, both which have been long disused.

Five miles south-west of Drayton is the village of STOKES, where was a castle upon the river Tern, which anciently belonged to the family of Verdun, when Theobald de Verdun, having no issue male, it went by his daughter Elizabeth, and her daughter Isabel, by marriage to Henry, lord Ferrers of Groby, who died in the seventeenth year of the reign of Edward the Third, and continued in this noble family for many successions, in that branch of it called the Ferrers of Tamworth, but it is now in the noble family of Craven. Its remains  
shew,

shew, that it was a very strong structure, but of no great beauty, especially the two towers which are joined together: a part of it is converted into a dwelling-house.

Eight miles to the north of Shrewsbury is WEM, which is situated near the head of the river Rodon, in a flat, but fertile country, which produces plenty of all sorts of grain. The town is small, consisting of three or four streets, tolerably well built. The market, which is on Thursdays, is but small; but it has four fairs, which are held on the 6th of May, and on Holy Thursday, for horned cattle, horses, sheep, linen, and flax seed; and on the 29th of June, and the 22d of November, for linen cloth, horned cattle, horses and swine. The church stands on one side of the principal street, and consists only of the nave, an isle on the south side, a chancel, and a tower-steeple. It is a rectory, said to be worth 400 l. a year; the rectory-house is a very good one, and has pleasant gardens. The parish is large, and contains two chapels of ease, namely, at Newtown and Edstaston. Wem has also a Presbyterian meeting-house, and one belonging to the methodists. It has likewise a free-school founded by Sir Thomas Adams. lord mayor of London, in 1645, and endowed for two masters to teach Latin, &c. and an English master. Wem had a garrison for the parliament in the great rebellion, and soon after the restoration had a great fire, which consumed the church, and a considerable part of the town. In the reign of James the Second, that infamous tool of arbitrary power, chancellor Jefferies, was created baron of Wem; but his title was extinct in his son John lord Jefferies, who had no male issue.

Sir Thomas Adams, citizen and lord mayor of London, and a man of great eminence in the



seventeenth century, was born in 1586, at Wem in Shropshire, educated at the university of Cambridge, and bred a draper in London. In 1639 he was chosen sheriff of that city; after which he rose gradually to be master of the Draper's company, alderman, president of St. Thomas's hospital, one of the representatives for the city in parliament, lord mayor of London, and *father of the city*. During the civil wars, he adhered to king Charles the First, for whose cause he was a considerable sufferer; and, as a reward for his loyalty, to that unfortunate prince, he was, upon the restoration of king Charles the Second, advanced to the honour of knighthood. He founded the above free-school at the place of his nativity, and an Arabic professorship at Cambridge; and he likewise caused to be printed, at his own expence, the Persian Gospels, and transmitted them into the eastern parts of the world: *Thus throwing, as he himself expressed it, a stone at the forehead of Mahomet*. He died February 24th, 1667, aged eighty-one.

About five miles north by west of Wem is BURGH, where it is supposed a small city once stood, though at present the ruins can hardly be discerned; however, Roman coins are often found here, with bricks, that are well known to be Roman. The inhabitants have a tradition, that here was a famous city, in the days of king Arthur, to whom the common people ascribe every thing that is uncommon; but no author has given us the least hint of what was its Roman name.

REDCASTLE, which is situated about a mile from Burgh, was built upon a rock of reddish stone, and was anciently the seat of the family of Laypole. About Mr. Camden's time, there were considerable ruins of this castle, though at present there are only some pieces of the walls remaining.

From

From Wem the road extends nine miles north to WHITCHURCH, which is situated near the borders of Cheshire, fourteen miles from Chester, and one hundred and forty from London, and has been also called Black-Meer, from the name of a meer of a blackish water, on which stood the manor-house. It is a pleasant, large, populous town, with a handsome church, that is a modern structure, in which are ancient monuments of the Talbots, earls of Shrewsbury. It is built of stone, and has a tower with eight bells, a clock and chimes at the west end. It consists of a nave or body, and two side isles, has galleries on the south, north, and west sides, and is very regularly pewed. The living is a rectory worth 700 l. per annum, and the duke of Bridgewater is the patron. There is also a meeting-house in the town for dissenters. The parish extends about four miles in length, and is nearly of the same breadth. It has three hamlets, Great and Little Ash on the east, and Tilstock on the south, at which last place is a chapel of ease; the minister of which is paid by the rector of Whitchurch. The town is well supplied with good water, and has a free-school, endowed for a master and usher, the former of whom has a house to live in. There is here also a school, founded by one Mr. Higgonson, where poor children are taught gratis, to read and write English. The same gentleman likewise built six alms-houses, which his wife and daughter endowed with 5 l. per annum each. The wake is kept on the 8th of October, if it be Sunday, or else, on the Sunday after. No manufacture is carried on here; but as the roads from London to Chester, and from Chester to London, leads through the town, its trade chiefly depends on the resort of travellers. The lands of this parish are, in general, level, and consists chiefly

of arable, pasture, and meadow ground, and produce wheat, rye, oats, barley, peas and beans; large quantities of cheese are also made in this parish. This town is said to have raised a whole regiment in the civil wars, for the service of king Charles the First. It has a market on Fridays, and two fairs, held on Witsun-Monday, and the 28th of October, for horses, horned cattle, sheep, swine, flaxen and hempen cloth, and some woollen. At this town was an hospital before the reign of king Henry the Third, for several poor brethren, but its revenues were afterwards annexed to the abbey of Haghmon.

We shall now return back to Shrewsbury, and take the road which leads north by west to ELLESMERE, so called from its being seated on the side of an extensive meer. It is a moderately large town, and is tolerably well built. It has a market on Tuesdays, much frequented by the Welch, and four fairs, held on the third Tuesday in April, on Whitsun-Tuesday, August 25, and November 14, for horses, horned cattle and sheep. The church is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave, two side isles, a chancel, and a tower steeple, and is a vicarage in the gift of the duke of Bridgewater, who is lord of the manor. Near the church is a neat vicarage-house. The parish is very extensive, and contains two chapels of ease, which are at Penley and Welch-Hampton. These have been augmented with queen Anne's bounty, and are now, in a manner, independent of the vicar. The parish is, in general, very level, well wooded, and produces all sorts of grain, with considerable quantities of cheese. Game is very plentiful, especially woodcocks, many of which are potted here and sent to London.

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This town had anciently a castle, which king John gave, together with the territory of Ellesmere, to Llewellyn, prince of North Wales, who married Joan, his natural daughter. In the reign of Henry the Third it came to the Stranges; but was afterwards in the possession of Sir Thomas Egerton, knight, lord keeper in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and lord chancellor in that of James the First, who made him baron of Ellesmere, which title is now enjoyed by his lineal descendant the duke of Bridgewater.

Seven miles north-west of Shrewsbury is Ness, a small village, famous on account of a craggy rock hanging over it in which is a cave.

The village of RUITON is two miles north-west of Ness, and has a fair on the 5th of July, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.

Seven miles north-west of Ruiton is OSWESTRY, a town seated in the north-west part of the county. Its original name was Maserfield, which was built, as Caradoc of Lancarvan tells us, by Madoc, the brother of Mereduc, and was walled round by the Allans, earls of Arundel. The Welch call it Croix Oswald. The name of Oswestry is taken from Oswald, king of Northumberland, who was defeated and slain in a bloody battle fought here by Penda, a pagan prince of the Mercians, who afterwards ordered his body to be quartered, and his head to be fixed on a tree or pole. The town seems to have had its first encrease from religion, for the Christians of that age esteemed it a most holy place; and Bede says, that where Oswald was slain, great miracles were wrought. There was once a castle at this place, to which a hundred and eleven towns belonged, all which king Richard the Second annexed to the principality of Chester, upon the at-



tainder of Richard, earl of Arundel. Oswestry gave the title of baron to the duke of Norfolk, but is now only a dirty, ill-built town. It has a church, a Presbyterian meeting-house, and a good grammar-school, with an excellent charity-school, for forty boys, besides girls, who are both clothed and taught. It was anciently a borough, and is governed by a mayor, but sends no member to parliament. It has a market on Mondays, and four fairs, held on the 15th of March, the 13th of May, the 15th of August, and the 11th of December, for sheep and horned cattle. Camden was so much addicted to astrology, that he tells us, the eclipses of the sun in aries, have been very fatal to this town, for that in the years 1542 and 1567, when the sun was so eclipsed, it suffered very much by fire; and that in the first, two long streets, with great riches, were consumed; and in the second, two hundred houses, that is, one hundred and forty within the walls, and sixty without, besides much corn, cattle, cloth, and other effects. This town had formerly a great trade in Welch cottons and flannels, but it is now so much decayed, that there is scarce a house in it fit to accommodate a traveller.

The chief seats near it are Halston, belonging to — Mytton, Esq; Lanvorda, to Sir Watkins Williams Wynne; Porkington, to — Owen, Esq; and Chirk-castle, to Richard Middleton, Esq;

To the north-west of Oswestry is a hill trenched round, with a three-fold ditch, called Handinus, that is, the Old Palace. The neighbours say, that here was an ancient city, but others think it was the camp, either of king Oswald, or of Pemba.

Three miles from Oswestry stood WHITTINGTON castle, formerly the castle of the Fitz-Guarrins,

Guarrins, who came from St. Guarrin in Lorraine, when one of them married the daughter and heiress of William Peverell, who is said to have built the castle.

In this part of Shropshire stands KNOCKIN castle, which gave title of baron Strange to the earls of Derby, till upon the death of earl James, in 1756, it fell to James, duke of Athol. The family of Strange, are commonly called le Strange, and in Latin Extranei, on account of their being strangers brought into England by king Henry the Second.

Five miles south of Oswestry is LLANAMONACH, or LLANYMINECH, a village bordering on the county of Montgomery, which has two fairs, held on the 29th of May, and the 29th of September, for horses, horned cattle and sheep.

Besides the eminent persons already mentioned, this county has produced the following great men.

Benjamin Whichcote, an eminent divine in the seventeenth century, was descended from a genteel family, and born, March the 11th, 1610, at Whichcote-hall, his father's seat, in the parish of Stoke in Shropshire. Having completed his course of academical learning at Emanuel college, Cambridge, he entered into orders; and setting up a Sunday's afternoon lecture, continued it for the space of twenty years. In the mean time he became one of the university preachers, minister of North Cadbury in Somersetshire, provost of King's college in Cambridge, and rector of Milton in that county. During the civil war he complied with the powers then in being; but acted, through the whole of it, with such uncommon prudence, that, upon the restoration,

though he was removed from his provostship, he was yet soon after presented, by the crown, to the vicarage of St. Lawrence Jewry, London. This living he held till his death, which happened in May, 1683. His funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Tillotson, who has drawn his character to a very great advantage. And, in 1698, his *Select Sermons* were published at London, by the late earl of Shaftsbury, author of the *Characteristicks*, who prefixed to them a preface of his own composing.

Thomas Hide, one of the most learned writers of the seventeenth century, was born, June 29, 1636, at Billingsley near Bridgenorth in this county, and educated at Kings college, Cambridge. Before he had arrived at the eighteenth year of his age, he had acquired such a knowledge in the Oriental languages, that he assisted Dr. Walton, afterwards bishop of Chester, in preparing his edition of the Polyglot bible. He then became successively head keeper of the Bodleian library, prebendary of Sarum, archdeacon of Gloucester, professor of Hebrew and Arabic at Oxford, and canon of Christ church. He died February the 18th, 1702, and was buried at Hamborough in the county of Gloucester. His works are numerous. His *Historia Religionis Veterum Persarum Eorumque Magorum*, is the best known, and most esteemed.

William Wycherley, a celebrated wit, and excellent comic poet, was the eldest son of Daniel Wycherley, Esq; of Cleve in Shropshire; and was born at that place in the year 1640. Being sent to France at the age of fifteen, he fell there into the company of Madam de Montausier, one of the most accomplished ladies of the French court; with whose politeness he was so highly charmed, that he renounced the protestant, and embraced the

the catholic faith. This last, however, he afterwards relinquished, and was reconciled to the church of England, upon his return to his native country, a little before the restoration. He then entered himself of Queen's-college, Oxford, and afterwards of the Middle-Temple, London; but soon quitted the dry study of the law, for the more agreeable pursuits of polite literature. In 1672, he wrote his first comedy, called *Love in a Wood*, or *St. James's Park*, which was acted with applause, and introduced him into the acquaintance of the most eminent wits of the age. Soon after appeared his *Gentleman-Dancing-Master*, his *Plain-dealer*, and his *Country Wife*; all which met with a favourable reception. He engaged the esteem and friendship of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, who not only admitted him into the closest familiarity, but likewise bestowed upon him some very lucrative posts. King Charles the Second too, gave him some signal marks of his favour. He even paid him the compliment of a visit, when he lay sick, at his lodgings, in Bow-street, Covent-Garden. But all the fair prospects which he had at court, was ruined by his marriage with the countess of Drogheda, which, as it was concluded without the king's knowledge, was represented as an instance of the highest ingratitude. His lady, it is true, who survived the match but a few years, settled upon him her whole fortune; but his title being disputed after her death, the expence of the law-suit, and other necessary disbursements, reduced him at last so low, that, not being able to satisfy his creditors, he was thrown into prison. Here he continued for the space of seven years, when he was happily released by the bounty of king James the Second, who not only paid his debts, but gave him a pension of 200 l. a year. Still, however, he was not free from dif-



ficulties. His modesty would not allow him to discover all his debts; so that he continued to be encumbered till the death of his father; and even then, the estate which descended to him, was clogged with the most strict and severe limitations. He married a young gentlewoman of fortune about eleven days before his death, which happened in December 1715. His body was interred in Covent-Garden church. Besides his plays, he wrote a great number of poems, which were published at London in one volume, folio. Lord Lansdowne honoured his memory with an excellent panegyric.

John Benbow, vice-admiral of the blue squadron, and one of the most gallant sea-officers this kingdom has ever produced, was descended of an ancient family in Shropshire, and born about the year 1650. He was early initiated in the sea-service; and after acting, for some time, as master of a merchantship, was introduced into the navy by the following incident. Having, in an engagement with a Sallee Rover, taken thirteen of the enemy, he caused their heads to be cut off, and thrown into a tub of pork-pickle; and upon his arrival at Cadiz went ashore, followed by a negro-servant, with the Moor's heads in a sack. The officers of the revenue demanded to see the contents, which the captain told them, were salt provisions for his own use; but upon their still insisting on looking into the sack, Mr. Benbow replied sternly, *I told you they were salt provisions for my own use. Cesar threw them down upon the table; and, gentlemen, if you like them, they are at your service.* The king of Spain was so charmed with this adventure of our hero, that he recommended him warmly to king James the Second of England, who gave him the command of a ship of war. From this time he rose by the force of pure merit, and without any court interest or intrigue,

to the first offices in the navy; signalized himself in several descents upon the French coast; pursued the famous Du Bart, whom, however, he could not overtake; and asserted the honour of the British flag in the West-Indies, and wherever else he commanded. But the greatest and most important action, that ever he performed, was in 1702, when, with his own ship, assisted by two others (for all the rest of his captains shamefully declined fighting) he maintained a desperate battle against a whole French squadron, for the space of four days, and on the morning of the fifth had his right leg shattered to pieces, by a chain-shot. Such was his undaunted spirit, that when, in this miserable condition, he was carried down to be dressed, and one of his lieutenants expressed great sorrow for the loss of his leg, he briskly replied, "I am sorry for it too, but had rather have lost them both, than to have seen this dishonour brought upon the English nation. But, do you hear, if another shot should take me off, behave like brave men, and fight it out." He recovered from the fever, produced by this accident; but vexation at the bad behaviour of his captains, two of whom were afterwards shot for cowardice, co-operating with a consumption, with which he was now seized, put a period to his life on the 4th of November, 1702.

Thomas Bray, doctor of divinity, an eminent, learned, and pious divine of the seventeenth century, was born, 1656, at Marton in Shropshire, educated at Hart hall in Oxford, and entering into holy orders, became vicar of Oger-Whitacre, in the county of Warwick. His learning and abilities having recommended him to the notice of Dr. Compton, bishop of London, that prelate pitched upon him as a proper person for modelling the infant church of Maryland, and fixing it up-  
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on a solid foundation; and this commission Dr. Bray executed with a prudence and perseverance, which, considering the numerous obstacles he met with, are altogether surprizing. He established parochial libraries in most of the colonies of America, as also in many parts of England; and it was for this purpose he wrote his *Bibliotheca Parochialis*. It was likewise owing chiefly to his zealous endeavours, that *The Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts*, was first instituted. Upon his return from America, he accepted the donative of St. Botolph without Aldgate; and from this time forward he employed himself mostly in writing those books, which he afterwards published. His *Martyrology*, or *Papal Usurpation*, appeared in 1712; his *Directorium Missionarium*, and his *Primordia Bibliothecaria* in 1726. He died February the 15th, 1730, in the seventy-third year of his age.

William Shenstone, a justly celebrated poet of the present century, was the eldest son of a plain, uneducated country gentleman in this county, who farmed his own estate. The father, sensible of his son's extraordinary capacity, sent him a commoner to Pembroke-college in Oxford, designing him for the church; but though he had the most awful notions of the wisdom, power, and goodness of God, he could never be persuaded to enter into orders. In his private opinions, he adhered to no particular sect, and hated all religious disputes. Tenderness was his peculiar characteristic, he shewed it to all who differed from him, and his friends, domestics, and poor neighbours, daily experienced the effects of his benevolence. This virtue he frequently carried to such an excess, as seemed to border upon weakness; yet if any one of his friends treated him ungenerously, he was not easily reconciled. On such occasions,  
however,

however, he used a maxim worthy of being observed and imitated. "I never, said he, will be a revengeful enemy, but I cannot, it is not in my nature, to be half a friend." He was no oeconomist, for the generosity of his temper, prevented his paying a proper regard to the use of money, he exceeded therefore the bounds of his paternal fortune; but if we consider the perfect paradise he had raised around him, of which we have given a particular description, the hospitality with which he lived, his indulgence to his servants, his charities to the indigent, and all out of an estate that did not exceed 300 l. a year, one should rather wonder that he left any thing behind him, than blame his want of oeconomy, yet he left more than sufficient to pay all his debts; and by his will appropriated his whole estate for that purpose. Though he had a high opinion of manny among the fair sex, was fond of their society, and no stranger to the tenderest impressions, he forbore to marry. A passion he entertained in his youth, was with difficulty surmounted. The lady was the subject of that admirable pastoral, in four parts, which has been so universally, and so justly admired; and which one would have thought, must have softened the proudest and most obdurate heart. His works have been published by Mr. Dodsley, in three volumes, octavo. The first volume contains his poetical works, which are particularly distinguished by an amiable elegance and beautiful simplicity; the second volume contains his prose-works, and the third his letters, &c.





## SOMERSETSHIRE.

**S**OMERSETSHIRE is so called from the town of Somerton, which was formerly the most celebrated and chief town in the county, whence it has been called by some authors the county of Somerton. It may properly be considered as a maritime county, it being washed on the north-west by Bristol-channel; on the north it is bounded by Gloucestershire; on the east by Wiltshire and a part of Dorsetshire; on the south by Dorsetshire and Devonshire; and on the west by Devonshire. This county is of considerable extent, it being sixty miles in length from east to west, fifty in breadth from north to south, and two hundred miles in circumference. Glastenbury, which is seated nearly in the middle of the county, is one hundred and twenty miles west of London.

Camden, in his *Britannia*, places this county in the territory inhabited by the Belgae. However, Tacitus, when he relates the victories of Ostorius, mentions the Iceni and Cangi, as conquered by him; and the latter he says, dwelt hereabouts, at a small distance from the Irish sea. Hence Camden conjectures, that the Cangi, being a small people, might be comprehended under the Belgae; but Dr. Tanner, chancellor of Norwich, who has with great industry searched into the antiquities of these parts, is of opinion, that all the northern part of Wiltshire may be allowed to

to have been the habitations of the Cangi, because the whole course of Ostorius's march seems to be a proof, that the Cangi lived in this part of the island; for when that general had vanquished them, and settled a colony at Camelodunum, that is Camelet, in this county, he marched to subdue the Silures, or the inhabitants of South Wales, and from thence went to the Ordovices, or those of North Wales. Now as this might be done without harrassing his soldiers, it is not to be supposed that he marched any other way thither. Besides, Liplius conjectures, that instead of the Ceni Magni of Caesar, we ought to read Iceni Cangi; and if this be allowed, the Iceni and Cangi must be placed in the south parts of Britain, and the Cangi, in all probability will fall to the lot of Somersetshire and the north of Wiltshire. Besides, the Bristol channel may probably be the sea which Tacitus tells us, looks towards Ireland, near which the Cangi lived. Likewise the Avon, called *Antona* by Tacitus, on which Ostorius had, before the rebellion of the Britons, erected several garrisons; will very well answer the river Tacitus speaks of.

There is but one Roman station in this county, taken notice of by Antoninus in his Itinerary, and this he calls *Equae Solis*, which is the same as Bath; but there were other Roman fortresses, and one city mentioned by Ptolemy, named *Ischalis*. As for the Roman roads in this county, the Fosse is the chief, if not the only one. It passes from Salfleet to Lincolnshire, through Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, to Bath, from whence it passes to Ilchester, and preserves its name in the neighbourhood. Dr. Stukeley is convinced, that the pavement of black stone laid edge way, south of this place

place towards Dorsetshire, is the work of the Romans, and in its original form.

Under the West-Saxon kings, this county was subject to certain earls, who had the power of determining all controversies of right and wrong, and the punishing malefactors within their jurisdiction; but we find nothing remarkable in history concerning them, till William the Conqueror deprived the Saxon nobility of their honours and estates, placing Normans in their room.

The principal rivers of Somersetshire are the Avon, the Brent, and the Parret. Of the Avon, which is likewise called the West-Avon, we have already given an account, in our description of Gloucestershire. The Brent, also called the Bry, and the Bru, rises in Selwood forest, in the east part of the county, and running westward, divides the county into nearly two equal parts, and falls into the Bristol channel, a few miles north of Bridgewater. The Parret, or Pedred, rises in the southermost part of the county, near Crewkern, and running north-west, is joined by the Ivel, or Evel, the Tone or Thone, the Ordred, and some other small rivers; and discharges itself into Bridgewater-bay. The other less considerable rivers in this county are the Frome, which washes the eastern borders of the county; the Axe, the Ex, and the Torr.

Somersetshire is remarkable for having two of the most celebrated mineral waters in the kingdom; that is, those of Bath and Bristol, besides others of different kinds.

Bath water, when viewed by itself in a small quantity, appears clear and transparent, but when held in the bath, the surface is of a sea-green colour. The smell is not very agreeable, especially in the Hot-bath. With regard to the experiments made with it, it is observable, that when carried

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at a distance from Bath, it will precipitate silver out of spirit of nitre into a hardish curd. The King's Bath and Hot-bath will turn the solution of silver white, with a bluish cast, which becomes gradually more dusk-coloured, and then deposites a dark grey sediment. The solution of English vitriol, mixed with this water, turns to a pearl colour; that is, with the King's Bath and Hot-bath, and both will be covered with a thin variegated pellicle. With oil of vitriol and other acids, the Bath waters will excite some intestine motion, and greatly blunt the acidity. If one part of boiling milk be mixed with two parts of Bath water, a thin whey and curd will appear, if the water be just taken up. A dram of syrup of violets, will give a grass green colour to an ounce of the King's Bath water, as well as of the Hot-bath, in twenty-four hours time.

Some experiments shew, there is a vitriolic principle in the Bath water; for if it be taken fresh from the pump, in clear frosty weather, galls will tinge it of a purple colour; but when cold they scarce make any alteration at all. It is generally thought to be owing to the ferruginous principle of Bath water, that it will make better and blacker ink than common water. Likewise the sand of the Baths, exposed to the air for some time, will become vitriolic, and make ink with infusion of galls. That there is an oker in this water, appears from the yellow colour of the stones in the bottom of the Bath; and from the yellow matter, like thin cream, floating on the surface of the water, in the winter time.

From these and other experiments, it is concluded, that there is a mixture of calcarious substance with the oker; and the mud is found to consist of a bluish clay, with some testaceous particles; and when it has been used as a cataplasm,  
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it has somewhat of the smell of sulphur, and when rubbed on silver, it changes it black. The sand thrown on a red hot iron, emits a blue flame with a sulphureous smell, and being exposed to the air, becomes vitriolic, as before observed.

A gallon of the Queen's Bath water will yield one hundred and fifty-five grains of sediment, the Hot-bath one hundred and thirty-nine, and the Cross-bath one hundred and thirty. The quantity of a calcarious and argillaceous substance, is double to that of the saline; the quantity of salt in each gallon scarce exceeds forty-three grains, and the rest of the matter is a grit, with a blue sulphureous earth or marl. The gross remainder emits a strong sulphureous smell, with a blue flame upon calcination, and by this operation a fourth part of the weight is lost by burning away. The result of all the observations of different physicians plainly shew, that the minerals in Bath water, consist of a calcarious and marly earth and oker, a marine or sea salt, a little calcarious nitre, and vitriol, a little bitumen, and a very small quantity of sulphur, which last can be made to appear no otherwise, than by consequences.

The Bath physicians are agreed, that the Bath waters are useful in all diseases of the head and nerves, such as convulsions, palsies, and epilepsies; and in all diseases of the skin and obstructions of the bowels; in scirrhoties of the liver, spleen and mesentery; in most diseases of women, and in the scurvy and stone. The Bath waters are certainly a most powerful deobstruent, and their energy is so great, and their operation so sudden, that a very exact preparation of the body is required, and a stricter regimen than in drinking other waters. Likewise a regard must be had to the habit of the body, the season of the year, the symptoms

symptoms of the disease, the changes of the weather, and the different degrees of heat in the several Baths. As for instance, the heat of the King's Bath, without due precautions, is apt to inflame the blood, heat the bowels, and sometimes cause a fit of the gout. As to the manner of operation of the Bath waters, whether by bathing, or drinking, or both, their effects are thus enumerated. Externally, they will heat, dry, attenuate, resolve and strengthen; have a singular virtue in diseases from a cold and moist cause. They ease pains, disperse cold tumours, dry up moist ulcers, and are very advantageous in phlegmatic diseases. It is also remarkable, that nothing more effectually prevents too great a corpulency than the frequent use of these Baths. Bathing cures contractions and relaxations of the limbs, restoring lost sense and motion; but it is not proper in a fit of the gout; yet in the decline of that distemper it is. It is also highly serviceable to those, whose sinews are impaired and crippled, by severe fits, and their frequent returns.

The Bath waters taken inwardly, to two or three quarts, commonly give two or three stools extraordinary; and it is remarked of the Hot-bath, that it generally keeps the body open, while the King's Bath has a contrary effect. When they are used as an alterative, they dilute, attenuate, sweeten, strengthen and heal, correcting the acrimony of the first passages, and curing the many disorders of those parts. They supply a want of spirits, and are good in diseases, where the secretions are diminished: as well as in all cachectic and scorbutic habits of body. They are very successful in hypochondriac disorders, and melancholy, as well as in disorders of the urinary passages, particularly sharpness of urine, the strangury, gravel and ulcers of the bladder.

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The usual time of bathing and drinking these waters, is generally five or six weeks, and in obstinate cases, they must be repeated every year. The common quantity drank, is from a pint to a quart, and half a pint a day; but some have been allowed to drink a gallon every day; and then the patient must begin with small doses.

Bristol water issues out of a rock, and in that city is called the Hot Well-water. It is seated on the north side of the river Avon, and when first drawn off, is generally of a whitish colour, which it gradually loses as it grows cold, and many small bubbles arise in it when taken from the pump. The taste is exceeding soft, pleasant and milky, at the spring head, and is very agreeable to the stomach; but it leaves a sort of stipticity on the palate. It is entirely without smell, and is only luke-warm to the touch. It keeps well in bottles that are well stopped, losing only a part of the elastic air, which flies off before the corks can be put in.

With regard to chymical experiments; if a glass of water be poured upon a few grains of Sal ammoniac, it immediately dissolves it, with a very sensible effervescence. Oil of tartar, not only produces the same effect, but renders the water milky, which after a while goes off, and lets fall a light, earthy precipitate. Dissolved soap, dropped into a glass of water, immediately curdles, and in a short time, the surface is covered with a greasy substance, and the water below becomes turbid. Twenty drops of the solution of silver, mixed with three ounces of the fresh water, in three hours made it appear, as if a small quantity of ink had been dropped therein.

These, and other experiments, seem to declare, that there is some degree of an acid in the Bristol water, though not discoverable by the taste;

taste ; there is also a small potion of sulphur, because when bottles filled with this water happen to be broken, it will stink very much. A gallon contains about thirty-four grains of sediment, which is of a light grey colour, of a brackish taste, and bitter in the throat. It will ferment with acids, and turn green after some time with syrup of violets. The salt is white, but will not ferment with distilled vinegar ; and in the air it will grow damp.

Bristol water is generally allowed to be cooling, cleansing and balsamic, with a considerable degree of astringency, which renders it excellent in the diabetes: it will also open the urinary passages obstructed by gravel. It is useful in many chronic diseases, that will not yield to a common course of medicine, and it is serviceable in many internal inflammations. It strengthens the stomach, promotes an appetite, assists digestion, and will cure the first stages of a consumption. It is good in disorders of the eye, and will cure ulcers therein, if taken warm from the pump, and applied with a soft rag: it has also cured many schrophulous ulcers, by washing them in this water, and likewise those of the cancerous kind, by drinking the water at the same time: it has also been found successful in the bloody-flux, all internal ulcers, and preternatural discharges, and bleedings of every kind.

The method of drinking the water when the patient first comes down, is to go to the pump-room in the morning, and drink a glass or two before breakfast, as also about five in the afternoon; the next day the patient takes three glasses before breakfast, and three in the afternoon; and this course is continued during his stay at the Hot wells.

Alford is a village twenty-four miles south of Bath, and is remarkable for its mineral water, which



which has a nauseous bitter taste, and will curdle with soap, as well as yield a white grumous sediment, with the solution of pot-ashes. It turns green with syrup of violets, and galls will produce a greenish cloud on the surface, which descends deeper in two or three days. A gallon will yield six drams of sediment, consisting of calcareous nitre and sea-salt, with a little lime-stone. It is cooling, cleansing, and penetrating; will attenuate gross humours, destroy acrimony, and temperate ebullitions of the blood; hence it is good in the scurvy, jaundice, and all sorts of obstructions. It cleanses the urinary passages, purges briskly, and promotes urine and sweat.

Lincomb water is seated near Bath, and is by some called Lincomb Spaw. When first taken up, it has a light, brisk, sulphureous smell, which it loses in six or eight minutes time; but its taste of iron will last for the space of eight hours. It is transparent at first, but becomes bluish with standing, and throws up to the surface, a thin, variegated unctuous scum. From various experiments it appears, that this water is impregnated with iron, and a little sulphur; as also with bitumen, and a small quantity of alkaline salt. It passes off quickly by urine, mends the appetite, and raises the spirits. It is serviceable in disorders of the first passages, and is good in cachexies, the jaundice, and recent obstructions of the liver; it also deterges and heals ulcers of the kidneys, and removes the strangury. Outwardly it cleanses and heals scrophulous ulcers, dries up sharp humours, and cures foulnesses of the skin.

Queen's Camel is a village five miles north of Sherborne, where there is a spring that proceeds from a hard rocky bank, and is called the Black-Well. It smells like the washings of a foul gun, and from the trials made with it, appears to contain

tain a considerable quantity of sulphur, some natron, and a calcareous earth. It cures by bathing scorbutic, leprous, and scrophulous disorders; and it has been observed to cure dogs of the mange, by dipping them therein.

The air of this county has been represented as the mildest in England: it is in most places very healthy, and upon the hilly parts exceeding fine.

With respect to the face of the country, there is a tract of mountains, called Mendip-hills, which extend from Whatley, near Frome Selwood, on the east, to Axbridge, on the west; and from Glastenbury on the south, to Bedminster, near the city of Bristol, on the north. These mountains are the most famous in England, for lead-mines and coals, but the lead is less soft, ductile, and fusible, than that of Derbyshire, and consequently not so proper for being cast into sheets and pipes, because when melted it runs into knots. It is therefore generally exported, or cast into cannon-balls and bullets. About the west end of Mendip-hills is found lapis caliminaris, lying near the surface of the earth, which has been lately found to be the matrix of Zink. It serves to change copper into brass, and has several medicinal uses; particularly it is good for sore eyes. The trees near the lead-mines have their tops burnt, their leaves and bark discoloured and scorched, and are stunted in their growth. It is observed, that the fumes of the lead produce diseases, which commonly prove mortal to such as are employed in melting it. The owners of the cattle that feed near the places where the lead ore is washed, employ persons on purpose, to keep them out of the reach of the smoke; and it is said that no dog, cat, or fowl, or any other animal, will live long in the neighbourhood of the places, where the lead-ore is usually melted.

The miners, who live at a distance, leave their tools all night upon the hills, either in the open air, or in a slight hut, without much apprehension of their being stolen; and if any miner is convicted of stealing them, he is condemned to suffer what is called burning of the hill, which is thus performed: the criminal is shut up in one of the little huts, erected for keeping the ore and tools, and then the hut being surrounded with dry furze, fern and the like, is set on fire, and the man left to make his escape as he can, by breaking open his prison, and rushing thro' the smoke and flames, and is ever after excluded from working in the mines of Mendip-hills.

At Bishops Chew, or Chew Magna, near Wrington, a market town, is dug up a red bole, called by the country people Redding, and in other places ruddle, and is distributed from thence all over England, for marking of sheep, and other uses.

About Bath, the country, on each side the Avon, is very hilly and uneven; the hills form a most beautiful prospect, though they are of little advantage to their possessors, they being neither fertile in herbage nor timber; but in general consist of rocks, which often lie near, or quite up to the surface; they are in a manner covered with fern and furze, and the few trees scattered upon them, do not flourish like those in a better soil. There is some reason to believe that these hills abound with iron, from the redness of the earth and stones, which in many places are covered with that ore, and from the oker found in the cracks of the rocks. The vallies, however, being fruitful, and having in many places a deep soil, make amends for the barrenness of the hills, and are chiefly employed in pasture.

The above-mentioned oker is greatly superior to that found in the shops, and doubtless, considerable

derable advantage might be made of it by collecting the purest parts, and sending it to this metropolis, where it might be sold to the painters. There are here two principal kinds of earth, of the nature of oker, the one red, and the other yellow, which are of a brittle nature, and frequently crumble to dust in the places where they lie. The red is of a deep colour, between a crimson and a purple, and has a strong body : the yellow is of a fine gold colour, and is light, and of so strong a body, that, besides being of a better colour, a dram of it is equal to an ounce of common oker. Both these sorts tinge the fingers very much on being touched ; and being ground up with oil, make excellent colours for painting. There is another deep red sort found in greater quantities, but it is not so fine. And besides the yellow oker already mentioned, there is in some of the cracks and crevices of the yellow iron ores, a fine light sort, which may be blown away with the breath : this is as fine to the touch as powder for the hair. It is of a lemon-colour, and nearly resembles what is called French oker, but is finer, and can be obtained only in small quantities.

These different kinds of oker, are not only found in the crevices of the rocks, but adhering to lumps of various kinds of ore. These lumps being broken, shew a variety of colours : those of the supposed iron-ore, are most of them reddish, but some of them are brown, a great many crimson and yellow ; and there is one kind which nearly resembles spar, only it is yellower, and very heavy. It is composed of transparent flakes, and is generally covered with a red matter, which sometimes gets in between the flakes, and gives the same colour to the whole lump. Here are also lumps of manganese and emery. In the same rocks there are also veins of lead-ore, but they are



small: some of these are pure, others intermixed with a brown stone of the nature of calamine, and some small clusters of yellowish, or white spars, accompanying them in beautiful forms.

The beautiful fossil called Bristol stones, abound in great plenty in some rocks, on the banks of the Avon, near Bristol. Those got out of St. Vincent's rocks, are of the crystal kind, some of them are perfectly clear and colourless, and others a little whitish; but of these last there are few. They are naturally as well polished as if they came from the hands of a lapidary, and many of them seem fit to be set in rings, without any farther trouble, except that of separating them from each other. They are found in large quantities, in the cracks of rocks, and cavities of stones, but chiefly of those of iron-ore, and the common people sell most of them for the embellishing of grottos, for which they are very proper, as they have a polish that will last for ever. These stones rise in a great variety of forms, in different places, and the clusters of them are yet more curious in their appearance. About Clifton they resemble table-diamonds, but where the pyramids stand upright, they have the appearance of rose-diamonds. In some places also about Clifton, where they are very small, short, and numerous, they have so many angles, and the light is so variously reflected, that they appear like clusters of small brilliants, set by a jeweller. About King's Weston, the clusters rise higher, and are more irregular, yet have a pretty romantic appearance; for some shoot up like the hinder teeth of a calf, and others like the spires and turrets of old cathedrals. In some there seem to be little hairs, in others white specks, in many bubbles of air, and in others drops of water. Those that are pure and clear, and such as are slightly tinged with colours,  
are

are exceeding hard, and will bear a strong fire, without alteration; but those that are flawed, or otherwise imperfect, cannot bear this trial, for they will crack, or turn white in the fire.

Wherever there is a crack between the solid parts of a stone, or wherever there is a cavity in a lump of ore, these crystals are to be found. They generally adhere to the rock or ore, at one end, but this is not always the case, for some adhere to the stone by one side, and these are pointed at both ends. They are commonly composed of a column or stem of six sides, and terminate in a point like a pyramid, that has also six sides. The small ones are tinged with various colours, much more frequently than the larger. Mr. Owen, to whom we owe a great part of the foregoing account, observes, that among the lime-stone rocks, he has met with two sorts of crystal substances, one of which is solid, and the other hollow. Those that are solid, are a kind of little balls of the size of a large nutmeg, and others are parts of round stones hollow within. Each of these last sorts is composed of an earthy or stony matter, with a crystalline crust, but the balls are the most splendid and showey, and the surface covered with points, which are short pyramids of crystals. When they are broken, there is a small lump of stone in the center, and round it a crust of a whitish, coarse, crystalline matter; and from the surface of this all the crystals shoot.

In this county are also stones for building, of a very particular kind. Among these is the Cotham stone, so called from Cotham house, which is at a small distance from Bristol, near which is a great bed of these stones. They have such a curdled and waved surface, that they are apt to fill a stranger, who has any taste for curiosities of this kind, with admiration. They resemble the roots

of trees folded together; or the thick and tuberous roots of the flower-de-lys, which creeps on the surface of the ground, and are entangled with each other. They are of a pale brown, and the several risings are like the parts of that root, their thickness being from three quarters of an inch to two inches. These stones are generally made use of for a sort of rustic work, in the stone facings of the gateways leading to very fine houses, nature having given them a roughness more proper for this purpose, than could be produced by art. It is observable, that these stones lie in separate strata, and many of them are about two feet, or two feet and a half long, and of an irregular figure. The upper surface is in all alike, as well as the under; for as the upper surface is raised into irregular protuberances, so the under is sunk into as irregular concavities, which is probably owing to the same cause. The under surface has the appearance of clay, rather than stone, but upon examination, is as hard there as in any other part. The cavities are about an inch deep, and two or three in length or breadth, but the space between them has a very irregular surface: the sides are also very irregular, with a representation of streams or brooks, running in an undulated course, not from top to bottom, but from end to end. The whole surface of the stone is of a pale brown, but these representations are paler than the other parts, and are about the breadth of a man's finger. They are also drawn with a great number of lines, as if done by a workman's tool. However, upon closer examination, they are found to be crusts of matter lying one upon another; and there are generally two, and sometimes three on a stone, of about eight inches in thickness.

In one of these stones that was cut through the middle lengthways, there appeared a landscape,  
said

said to be as well done, as if painted by a masterly hand ; for it exhibited a lively representation of rivers, forests, mountains, grottos, and every thing that could be conceived to embellish a fine picture. In one place there were clouds, as tho' seen at a distance, and in others an open country ; in others again trees, bushes, shrubs and hedges, with rivers and brooks running among them. Whatever part of the stone is cut, in the same direction, the same figures will appear, inso-much that slabs may be cut from each stone ; for it will cut easily, and takes a tolerable polish. Hence some gentlemen in the country have them actually cut into slabs and placed in frames, when they make a most elegant appearance, and form a very ornamental piece of furniture ; they being much more beautiful than the Florentine stone, so much valued in England, which has only a representation of ruins, and other figures of the like kind.

There are other stones found in this neighbourhood, called Snake-stones, which are flat, and of different sizes, from a foot in circumference to above a yard. Their substance is a sort of free-stone, of a whitish colour, and each has the representation of a snake, in raised work upon the surface, like those we have described in Oxfordshire. The snake is always represented as coiled up, with the tail in the center, and the largest part at the extremity. They are rolled so close, that none of the flat stone can be seen between them, and are here generally marked with cross-lines, that resemble the ribs of a snake, after the skin is taken off. Yet they have not the least appearance of a head, though the country people will sometimes carve one at the end, with a design to impose on any person who wants to purchase them. These stones lie in different depths in



the earth, and there are always oyster and cockle-shells, with many other shells of sea-fish, found near them. It is said, that the bones and teeth of sea-fish are also frequently found; and these are generally supposed to have been deposited in the bowels of the earth by the general deluge. We have already taken notice of other circumstances of the same kind, in different parts of England, and particularly at Catsgrove-hill, near Reading in Berkshire, upwards of forty miles from the nearest parts of the sea, where oyster-shells are found between beds of clay and chalk, intermixed with sea-sand.

In short, the hills of this county, round about Bristol to a considerable distance, are filled with large beds of stones of different kinds, and of various colours; for some are very hard, others soft, and several prettily marbled. It is remarkable, that all the stone in this county is found in loose joints of various sizes, from a foot square to four or five, and that the rocks never rise perpendicular, but always lie slanting, one way or other, and are, from the bottom to the top, composed of ranges of joints rising above each other, like what is commonly called geometry stairs, only instead of just resting upon each other, one joint lies, perhaps, two thirds over that beneath it.

The greatest plenty of coals is met with five miles northward of Stony-Easton, where a branched cliff usually lies over the coal, in which are the representations of several sorts of herbs. Some years ago, a vein was worked, which, when split in the joints, seemed to be covered with leaf-gold; for which reason the colliers called it the Peacock's vein. In one of these works was found two or three hundred weight of very good lead-ore, growing to a vein of coal.

But

But what is still more extraordinary, in 1756, upon a hill near Mendip, a gentleman digging for oker and ore, found, at the depth of three hundred and fifteen feet six inches, four teeth (not the tusks) of a large elephant, with two thigh bones, and part of the head, all extremely well preserved. They lay in a bed of oker, with which every crevice was filled, but on washing off the oker, a most beautiful white appeared. Part of a stag's horn, immensely large, was about the same time dug up ten miles from Bristol.

With regard to the soil of this county it is various: the eastern and western parts are mountainous and stony; they, however, yield good pasture for sheep, and, by means of art and industry, produce corn. The lower grounds afford corn and grass in great plenty; and a valley of great extent, called Taunton-Dean, or the Vale of Taunton, is said to be so rich, as to afford corn, grass, and fine fruit, in great abundance, without manure. Wood thrives better here than in most parts of the kingdom, and teazle, a species of thistle, of great use in dressing cloth, is almost peculiar to this county. On the beach of Bristol channel is found a sea-plant, of which the inhabitants make cakes, called Laver, which are wholesome and nourishing food, and this plant is said to be found in no other part of the kingdom.

The oxen of Somersetshire are not inferior in size to those of Lincolnshire, and the grain of the flesh is said to be finer. The vallies fatten an immense number of sheep of the largest size in England. The shore also furnishes the inhabitants with cod, mackrel, soals, flounders, plaise, herrings, shrimps and prawns, lobsters and crabs. The Parret produces plenty of excellent salmon, and the Avon abounds with a blackish kind of eels, called Elvers, which are scarce as big as a

goose-quill, and being skimmed up in vast quantities, with small nets, are made into cakes, and fried. In this county is also great plenty of wild-fowl, but venison is scarce, on account of their being but few parks.

Among the extraordinary plants growing wild in this county, are the following :

White beam-tree, *Aria Theophrasti*, Ger. *Alni effigie lanato folio major*, C. B. *Sorbus Alpina*, J. B. On the rocks over-against St. Vincent's rock, near Bristol, and in many other places, on hilly and rocky grounds, among other shrubs and trees.

Caterach, spleenwort, miltwast, *Asplenium five ceterach*, J. B. Ger. Park. On the stone walls about Bristol, plentifully.

English woody-headed thistle, *Carduus tormentosus Anglicus*, Lob. Ad. Park. Observed by Lobel in many barren fields of this county.

Dwarf cistus, or sun-flower with poley-mountain leaves, *Cistus humilis Alpinus durior*, *Polii nostratis folio candicante*, Plukenet. On Brent-downs, near the Severn-sea.

Meadow-saffron, *Colchicum commune*, C. B. *Anglicum purpureum*, Park. Ger. In some meadows about Bath.

Tufted horse-shoe vetch, *Ferrum equinum Germanicum siliquis in summitate*, C. B. Ger. emac. On the hills about Bath, and between Bath and Marlborough.

Spiked star of Bethlehem, with a greenish flower, *Ornithogalum angustifolium majus*, *floribus ex albo virescentibus*, C. B. *Asphodelus bulbosus*, Ger. On a hill three miles on this side Bristol, in the way to Bath.

Solomon's seal, with white hellebore-leaves and a purplish stalk, *Polygonatum Hellebori albi folio, caule purpurascente*, D. Robert. In the woods on the north side of Mendip-hills. Broad-

Broad-leav'd indented golden rod, *Virga aurea maxima radice repente*, D. Robert. Found plentifully by the side of a small river, between Wells and Glastenbury.

In this county are manufactured broad and narrow kerfies, shalloons, duroys, ferges and druggets, great quantities of linen, together with stockings and buttons. The value of the woollen manufactures alone, has been rated at a million a year.

This large and populous county is divided into forty-two hundreds, and contains the three cities of Bath, Bristol, and Wells, and thirty-two market-towns; namely, Axbridge, Bridgewater, Bruton, Castle-Carey, Chard, Crewkern, Croscomb, Dulverton, Dunster, Frome-Selwood, Glastenbury, Ilchester, Ilminster, Keynsham, Langport, Milborn Port, Minehead, North-Curry, Pensford, Philips-Norton, South Petherton, Porlock, Shepton-Mallet, Somerton, Stowey, Taunton, Watchet, Wellington, Wincaunton, Wivelscomb, Winton and Yeovil. It is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Bath and Wells, and has 385 parishes. It sends eighteen members to parliament, viz. two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens for each of the cities of Bristol, Bath, and Wells, and two burgessees for each of the five following boroughs; Taunton, Ilchester, Milborn - Port, and Minehead.

We shall enter this county from Wiltshire, in the road to Bath and Bristol.

Bath is one of the most celebrated cities in England, and is of very great antiquity, it being the *Aquae Solis*, or Waters of the Sun of Antoninus. Upon the spot where the cathedral now stands, a temple is said to have been formerly dedicated to Minerva, who was the tutelar deity of these springs, and from thence the ancient Britons gave to this city the name of *Caer Pallader*, or the city



of the Waters of Pallas. It is seated in a great valley among hills, that encircle it in the form of an amphitheatre; and there is no doubt but that the Romans were induced to fix a station here, on account of its admirable hot springs, which had even then been long famous for curing a great number of diseases. Indeed it is not known by whom this city was originally founded. Some legendary writers ascribe it to king Bladen, who lived long before the birth of Our Saviour, and consequently before the coming of the Romans; but who he was is as much unknown; and indeed it is questioned if there ever was any such king, though statues have been erected to him in several parts of the city. Bath was at length called by the Saxons *Acmanneſceafter*, which signifies the city of Valitudinarians; and upon Landsdown hill near this city, are still to be seen the remains of a fortification, thought to have been thrown up by the Saxons, in the year 520, when they defended themselves against the victorious king Arthur. In the year 577, Ceawlin, king of the West-Saxons, drove the Britons out of several cities, and at length came to Bath, and forced that city to submit to his power. In the year 676, Oſric, a petty king, built a nunnery here, and soon after, when this city fell into the hands of the Mercians, king Offa built a church, to which king Edgar, on account of his being crowned in it, granted several immunities. They were both however destroyed in the Danish wars, but when peace was restored, this city recovered itself by degrees, and Elphege, archbishop of Canterbury, in the year 1010, built the inhabitants a new church. In the reign of William Rufus, a body of rebels marched to this city, which they plundered and burnt; yet, in a short time, the inhabitants, by the assistance of the bishop of Wells, bought

bought this city for five hundred pounds weight of silver; and the bishop translating his see hither, built a new cathedral. But at length it becoming ruinous, Oliver King, bishop of Bath, laid the foundation of another, but did not live to see it compleated.

The city is encompassed by a wall, which, though slight, and almost entire, is supposed to have been the work of the Romans, except the upper part, which seems to have been repaired with the ruins of Roman buildings; for in some places the loop-holes are left, and there are many Roman inscriptions, some of which are sawn across to fit the place the stone was to fill; likewise some of the letters are towards the city, and others on the outside; most of those mentioned by Camden, and other authors, are still left, tho' they are now not easy to be read. The walls are somewhat in the form of a pentagon, and inclose but a small compass of ground: in these walls were four gates and a postern, which were all of them lately demolished and taken away. These gates were the North-gate, which was the entrance from the London road; the West-gate, a handsome structure of stone, in which some of the royal family have formerly lodged. The South-gate, which led to the bridge over the Avon; and the East-gate, which led to a ferry over the same river.

In this city is a cathedral and three parish churches. The cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Peter, was begun in 1137, by Dr. Oliver King, bishop of this see, but was not finished till the year 1612. It is a small but noble structure, and the inside of the roof is neatly wrought. From the middle rises a handsome square tower, with a turret at each corner, and a ring of eight bells. The east window is very magnificent.

Upon

110      *A DESCRIPTION of*

Upon a stone on the west side of the cathedral, are eagraved the following lines, said to have been done in memory of Dr. Oliver King, who, as we have already observed, founded the church.

The trees going to cheese a king,  
Said, be to us thou, Oliver, King.

On the south side of the cathedral are some remains of an abbey, to which the church formerly belonged. The gate-house of this abbey is still standing, and has long been converted into lodgings, in which king James the Second, queen Mary, consort of king William, queen Anne, and her royal consort, George, prince of Denmark, resided for some time.

In August, 1755, the abbey-house being taken down, in order to erect a new building, the workmen discovered the foundations of more ancient structures, particularly the remains of very august Roman baths and sudatories, constructed upon their elegant plans, with floors suspended upon square brick pillars, and surrounded with tubulated bricks, for the equal conveyance of heat and vapour.

The parishes of this city are St. James's, St Mary's, and St. Michael's, in each of which there is a ring of eight bells. There is also a chapel belonging to St. John's hospital built of white free-stone, and several meeting-houses for the dissenters.

Bath is a bishop's see, united to that of Wells, and is governed, under a charter of queen Elizabeth, by a mayor, eight aldermen, and twenty-four common-council men. The town-hall, under which the market is kept, stands on twenty-one stone pillars. At the upper end of the hall, are placed the pictures of Frederick, the late prince of Wales, and his princess; round the hall hang the pictures of the members of the corporation, drawn at the expence of the late general Wade, whose own picture is placed over the door.

door. Here are also the effigies of the British king Coel, and of Edgar, a Saxon king, who was crowned here.

The discovery and first use of the baths are entirely unknown, they being involved in fables. It is, however, certain, that these baths gave rise to the city; and in every age since, have occasioned a great resort of people, whose disorders could be either removed or alleviated by the waters. It has been long observed, that both the city of Bath, and the adjacent country, abound with cold, as well as hot springs; and that in some places, the hot and cold arise very near each other; in one place within two yards, and in others, within eight or nine of the main bath. It is also remarkable, that these hot springs are always the same, for the longest and heaviest rains neither make them discharge more water, nor the driest seasons occasion their discharging less. Hence it is evident, that these waters are not diluted, and their mineral virtues weakened by rains, nor their virtues heightened, and the water made stronger by draughts.

Of these springs, that called the Cross bath, from a cross formerly erected in the middle of it, is of a gentle and moderate warmth, and a person may endure to stay much longer in it than in any of the others. It is inclosed with a wall, covered by James Ley, earl of Marlborough; on the sides of which are seats, and at the ends, galleries for music and spectators, under which are slips or rows of small dressing-rooms, one of which ranges is for the gentlemen, and the other for the ladies; who being dressed in linen habits, go together into the water, the men keeping on one side, and the women on the other. In the middle is a marble pillar adorned with curious sculptures, erected at the expence of the earl of Melfort,



Melfort, in compliment to king James the Second and his queen, and in memory of their meeting here. This bath fills in sixteen hours.

The Hot bath, which is so called from its being much hotter than the Cross bath, is fifty-eight feet and a half distant from it. This bath has a well, the water of which, not only supplies its own pump, but is conveyed by pipes to the pump in the Cross bath, though the latter also has a spring, whose water is milk warm.

The King's bath, which is much the largest, is accommodated with many dressing places, some of which are appropriated to the men, and others to the women, both of whom bathe in linen shifts and drawers. There is here a spring so hot, that they are obliged to turn most of it away, for fear of heating the bath too much; however, the heat of the hottest spring is not sufficient to harden an egg. Before this bath there is an handsome building, called the Drinking-room, for the company to meet in to drink the waters.

The Queen's bath has no spring of its own, but is supplied by water from the King's.

There is also a bath for lepers or lazars, used by none but such as the physicians judge to have a leprosy, or some other disease of the same kind. This is made by the overflowing of the Cross bath. The poor who bathe in it, have an allowance from the town for their support, but are chiefly relieved by the generous contributions of the gentlemen and ladies, who come to enjoy the benefit of the other bath.

We have already taken notice, in treating of the mineral waters of this county, of the virtues of these waters, in bathing and drinking; but it will be proper here to observe, that pumping is found of great service, in several disorders that affect the extreme parts. This purpose was at first answered by

by what was called bucketing, which was performed by taking up the water in buckets, and pouring it leifurely on the part affected, by which method the warmth and virtues of the water were thought to penetrate deeper than in bathing alone. This was usually performed in pains of the head, stupors, deafness, palsies, sciaticas, cold and withered limbs, &c. But after bringing pumps into use, this way of embrocation ceased; for the water being drawn by these more immediately from the spring, is hotter, its virtues more entire, and it falls with equal, if not with greater force, upon the part affected. Pumps were at first used only in the baths; but it being found, that women subject to the vapours, persons afflicted with the gravel in the kidneys, and others who were extremely weak, were incapable of bearing the heat of the bath and pumping together, an expedient was found by raising the water somewhat higher, to pump the extreme parts, without going into the bath at all; and this is called Dry-pumping. The seasons for drinking these waters are the spring and autumn; the former beginning with April and ending in June: the autumn season begins with September and lasts till December. In the spring, Bath is most frequented for health, and in autumn, for pleasure, when, at least, two thirds of the company come to partake of the amusements of the place; and in some seasons there have been at Bath no less than eight thousand persons, besides its constant inhabitants.

Bath has, for several year past, been greatly improving in its buildings, and the late duke of Chandois, in particular, made great additions to them. Without the walls is Queen's square, a quadrangle of elegant stone buildings, enriched with columns and pilasters of the Corinthian order. On one side is a fine chapel, and in the center

ter is an obelisk seventy feet high, which, as the inscription imports, was erected by Richard Nash, Esq; in grateful remembrance of the honours and benefits conferred on this city, by the prince and princess of Wales in 1736, when they were pleased to lodge in this square. In that near the abbey-church, called Orange square, is a monumental stone, in compliment to the prince of Orange, erected by the same gentleman, shewing that the health of this prince was restored by drinking the waters. The new edifices which compose Queen's square, Chandos buildings, the North and South Parade, King's-Mead square, Galloway's buildings, and the King's Circus, a noble circle of magnificent buildings, beautifully fronted with stone, with a fine circular area in the middle, encompassed with iron pallisades, were all built on plans formed by the late celebrated architect Mr. Wood. The ingenious author of the Six Weeks Tour, observes, that Bath greatly exceeds London in regularity of building, and in being proportionably a much finer city. "The most criticising eye, says he, must allow, that the Circus is truly beautiful, and ornamented to that just degree of elegance, which, if I may be allowed the expression, lies between profusion and simplicity."

It is worthy of remark, that the stone, of which the above noble structures, and elegant modern squares are built, was dug out of the quarries in Clarton-Down, where the horse-races are kept, and brought from thence down a steep hill, by a curious machine, invented by the ingenious and public-spirited Mr. Allen. This machine is a four wheeled carriage of a particular form and structure, the wheels are of cast iron, broad and low, with a groove in the perimeter, to keep them on the pieces of wood, on which they easily

easily move down the hill, with four or five tons weight of stone, without the help of horses; the motion being moderated by means of a friction lever, bearing more or less on the hinder wheels, as occasion requires. This stone is easily wrought with edge tools, and even fashioned in a lathe, for the ornamental parts of architecture; for which purpose there are some shops and artificers of great note constantly employed. Upon which account this stone is sent to all parts of England.

Among the other public buildings, the general infirmary, lately erected is a noble structure, a hundred feet in front, and ninety deep, and is capable of receiving one hundred and fifty patients. When this edifice was first erected, the benevolent Mr. Allen gave all the stone used in this structure, and it is constantly supported by the generous subscriptions and contributions of the compassionate benefactors to the helpless and miserable, who are generally found here in great numbers; it being intended for the reception of the sick and lame from all parts of the kingdom. There are also in this city a free-school, and two charity-schools; one for 50 boys, and the other for 50 girls, who are cloathed and taught. An hospital dedicated to St. John, founded by Fitz Joceline, bishop of this see in the twelfth century, for the poor sick people, who came hither for the benefit of the waters; and an alms-house, called Ruscot's charity, endowed for the maintenance of twelve men and twelve women, besides other alms-houses, supported chiefly by the chamber of the city.

There is here a large and elegant theatre; and as there are many good houses in courts and allies where the coaches cannot enter, there are a number of chairs licensed by the mayor, which, for sixpence, are obliged to carry a person from any part  
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of the town to the other, within the walls. In short, the buildings of this city are magnificent, and in a grand taste; the streets are large, well paved and clean; the market-place spacious and open, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays, supplied with the best of meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, &c. The grove, the squares, the parade, and the circus afford the nobility and gentry the most agreeable opportunity of walking and taking the air; the people of pleasure here, have the most lofty and spacious rooms for balls and assemblies; the studious have an easy supply of all kinds of books; and what is of much more consequence, the wretched and miserable part of mankind are here made happy on a three-fold account; for they are either wholly delivered from their painful disorders, by the healing qualities of the waters of the different baths, or they are at least frequently relieved, and have the advantage of being directed by the advice of the most eminent physicians. The river Avon has been lately made navigable to this city, by means of six locks, by which a trade is carried on between Bristol and this city. Bath has two fairs, which are held on the 3d of February, and the 29th of June, for cattle. This city sends two members to parliament.

John Hales, an eminent divine of the church of England, in the seventeenth century, and usually distinguished by the appellation of *Ever Memorable*, was born at Bath, in the year 1584, and educated at Oxford, where he was chosen fellow of Merton college, and appointed Greek professor in the university. In 1618 he accompanied Sir Dudley Carleton, ambassador to the Hague, in the quality of chaplain; and, by this means, had an opportunity of being present at the Synod of Dort, of whose transactions he gave  
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Sir Dudley an account, in a series of letters, which he wrote to that gentleman, and which were afterwards published. In his younger years he was attached to the doctrines of Calvin; but he afterwards embraced the principles of Arminius. A piece which he wrote concerning the nature of Schism, and addressed to his learned friend, the famous Dr. Chillingworth, exposed him to the resentment of archbishop Laud, who sent for him to Lambeth, and expostulated with him on the subject; but, after some conversation, they were at last reconciled, and Laud obtained for him a canonry of Windsor. Of this, however, upon the commencement of the civil war, he was deprived by the parliamentary commissioners; and he passed the remainder of his life in privacy and retirement, in the house of a widow at Eton, whose husband had been his servant. Here he was reduced to very narrow circumstances; so narrow indeed, that he was obliged to dispose of part of his library, to the amount of no less than 700 l. in order to procure him a daily subsistence. He died May the 19th, 1656, and was interred in the church-yard of Eton college. His *Golden Remains* were published about three years after his death.

Benjamin Robins, an eminent mathematician in the present century, was the son of a quaker of low condition, and born at Bath in this county in the year 1707. His education was such as suited his father's circumstances, as well as his religion, which teaches a contempt of human learning. Endued, however, with an excellent genius, he soon acquired, by his own industry, what others received from the instructions of a master; and having given some striking specimens of his knowledge in the mathematics, he was chosen a member of the Royal-Society, in 1727. From this time  
forward

forward he continued to distinguish himself by his mathematicial productions; and particularly by his learned defence of Sir Isaac Newton's method of Fluxions against the objections of Dr. Berkley. In 1742 he published his new principles of gunnery; and in these he has carried that useful art to a higher degree of perfection than it had ever before attained. He there proves, that the line described by a canon-ball in motion differs considerably from a parabola, on account of a certain rotatory motion, which it accidentally acquires round its own axis. Mr. Robins's knowledge was not confined to the mathematics; he likewise excelled in other branches of learning. He was the real author of *Lord Anson's Voyage round the World*; though that book is commonly ascribed to Mr. Walter. In 1749 he was appointed engineer-general to the East-India company; and setting sail from England, he arrived at the Indies in July, 1750. The climate, however, did not agree with his constitution. He survived his arrival just about a twelvemonth, and died on the 29th of July, 1751. His works were published in 1761, in two vols. 8vo.

The seat of the late benevolent Mr. Allen, now called PRIOR-PARK, is seated near Bath, and commands a prospect as delightful as it is possible for the imagination to conceive. The city of Bath is the chief object, and faces the principal front of the house. This elegant seat consists of a noble building in the center, two pavilions, and two wings of offices, all united by arcades, and forming a continued curved line of above a thousand feet in front, of which the house in the center takes about a hundred and fifty feet. It is of the Corinthian order, adorned with a noble portico, and is crowned with a balustrade. It has two stories, and contains fifteen windows in length; and

the whole is finished with free-stone, in a most elegant taste. The gardens consist of two terraces and two slopes lying northward before the house, with winding walks made through a little coppice, opening to the westward of those slopes. All these are adorned with stone vases and other ornaments. There are here three water-falls, at the head of one of which is a statue of Moses, in an attitude, expressive of the admiration he must have been in, after striking the rock, and seeing the water gush out. The winding walks, though no broader than for two or three to walk abreast, in some places appear with little cliffs on one side, and with small precipices on the other. These are justly esteemed as beauties, in which nature is represented in the most pleasing and natural forms; but if we leave them, and go to the rides through the adjoining lands, which may be termed the greater part of the garden, the real beauties of nature will appear in great abundance; and the late Mr. Allen might put the natural terrace on the brow of the hill, above his house, in competition with the greatest work that was ever made to adorn a seat; and on that terrace is placed the statue of the late marshal Wade.

The above gardens are justly described by the late ingenious Mrs. Chandler in her description of Bath.

Thy taste refin'd appears in yonder wood,  
 Not Nature tortur'd, but by Art improv'd,  
 Where cover'd walks with open vistas meet,  
 An area here, and there a shady seat.  
 A thousand sweets in mingled odours flow  
 From blooming flowers, which on the borders  
 grow.



In num'rous streams, the murm'ring waters  
thrill,

Uniting all, obedient to thy will,

Till, by thy art, in one canal combin'd,

They thro' the wood in various mazes wind ;

From thence the foaming waves fall rapid down,

In bold cascades, and lash the rugged stone.

But, here their fury lost, the calmer scene

Delights the softer muse, and soul serene :

An ample basin, centre of the place,

In lymph transparent holds the scaly race ;

Its glassy face, from ev'ry ruffle free,

Reflects the image of each neighbouring tree,

On which the feather'd choirs melodious throng,

By love inspir'd, unite in tuneful song.

A little to the north of Bath is LANSDOWN, on which is a monument erected to the memory of Bevil Granville, slain here in a battle with the parliament forces ; and from hence is a prospect of Bristol. The road here seems to be the Roman road, Ricening street, which extends to the passage over the Severn, and into Yorkshire. The ground is very red, covering a solid rock of stone, which rises in thin layers parallel to the horizon, with as much exactness, as if hewn for courses in a wall. This stone is full of little shells, and between the strata are crystallizations of petrifying juices. The village of Lansdown has a fair on the 10th of August, for cattle and cheese.

BATHFORD is a village between three and four miles east of Bath, where was found in the last century, by digging, a pavement of chequered work, formed of white, blue, and red stones.

At MYNCHINBARROW, a village near Bath, was a priory, to which the parsonage of Twiverton was appropriated. This priory, at the dissolution  
of

of religious houses, was given by king Edward the Sixth, to Sir Thomas Heneage, knight, in exchange for other lands, and was valued at 29 l. a year.

Six miles west of Bath is KEYNSHAM, or CANESHAM, a thoroughfare town in the road between Bath and Bristol, seated on the south bank of the Avon, and on the west bank of a small river called the Chew, which here discharges itself into the Avon, five miles south-east of Bristol. It has a large handsome church, and a stone bridge of fifteen arches, that leads into Gloucestershire. The chief trade of the inhabitants is malting. It has a charity-school, and a market on Thursdays, with two fairs, held on the 24th of March, and the 15th of August, for cattle and cheese.

Here was formerly a priory of canons regular, of the order of St. Augustine, founded by William earl of Gloucester, about the year 1170, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Peter, and St. Paul. It had several other benefactors, and was valued at the suppression at 419 l. 14 s. 3 d. per annum.

Five miles south by west of Keynsham is PENSFORD, a town seated on the river Thew, which has a market on Tuesdays, and two fairs, held on the 6th of May, for horned cattle, sheep and horses, and on the 8th of November, for horses and sheep.

Two miles to the west of Pensford is STANTON DREW, where is a circle of stones, called the Weddings, which, according to a ridiculous tradition of the inhabitants, were a bride going to be married, when she, with the rest of the company, were transformed into these stones. The circle formed by these stones is ninety paces in diameter, and each of them is about five or six feet in height. This appears to have been a temple

ple of the Druids, several of which have been, and others will be taken notice of in different parts of England. Near Stanton Drew, in a place where three ways meet, is an old elm tree, rendered infamous for the bloody trophies of judge Jefferies, after the duke of Monmouth's rebellion; for all the branches were covered with the heads and limbs of the unfortunate countrymen.

At CHEW MAGNA, a little to the westward of this place, is Bowditch, a large camp on a hill, of a circular form, and trebly fortified; and from thence there is a fine prospect of the Bristol channel.

Three miles south-south-west of Pensford is STOWEY, which has a fair on the 7th of September, for cattle and toys. On the side of a heath, above the church, rises a large spring, which is never dry. It runs through the town, and covers every thing it meets with a stony crust.

Eight miles south of Pensford, bordering on Mendip-hills, is STONY EASTON, where, what is called the running of coal, begins. It consists of several veins, which run about four miles eastward, but the pits are subject to fire-damps, by which many of the miners have been killed, and others scorched. However, they pursue the works, and to prevent mischief, the candles are sixty or seventy in the pound, and the colliers are said to have always at hand, an ointment proper for the cure of burns.

At CHELWOOD, a village near Pensford, the following remarkable circumstance happened in the year 1752. The sexton of the place had opened a grave, in which a man, who had died of the small-pox, had been interred about thirty years before. The coffin was of oak, and so firm, that it might have been taken out whole; but he forced his

his spade through the lid, when there came forth a nauseous stench. The person being of eminence who was to be buried in the grave, the whole village attended the funeral, with many people from the neighbouring villages; and a few days after, fourteen persons were seized in one day, with the small pox, and in three days more, all but two in the whole village, who had not had it, were seized in like manner, in all thirty. The disease was so favourable, that no more than two died, one of whom was a woman, who came down stairs, when the pock was at the height. The distemper was carried all round the neighbouring villages by the country people who attended the funeral, but proved very favourable.

BRISLETON is a village about two miles south by east of Bristol, round which the country abounds with the same sort of coals, as those brought from Newcastle. The veins of these coals are covered with a kind of shell of a black, hard, and stony substance, called Wark, which will split like slate, but is softer and much more brittle. Upon dividing it, there is frequently found the print of a fern leaf, as perfect as if it had been engraved by a skilful hand; and on the other surface, a protuberant figure of the same leaf.

At STANTONBURY, a village also between Bath and Keynsham, is a large camp on the top of a hill, that is thought to contain about thirty acres of ground.

BRISTOL, called by the Saxons Brightstow, which signifies a celebrated place, is called in the catalogue of ancient cities *Caer-Brito*, and by the Britons *Caer-Oder-Nant-Vadon*, that is, the city of Odera in Badon valley. It is seated, between two rivers, the Avon, and the little river Frome, a hundred and seven miles south of Shrews-



bury, nineteen north-north-east of Wells, twelve west by north of Bath, and a hundred and fifteen west of London. The time in which this city was built is uncertain, it not being so much as mentioned by any of our historians that treat of the Danish wars. Camden is of opinion, that it was first built about the declension of the Saxon government, because we do not find it taken notice of before the year 1063, at which time king Harold set sail for Bristol, to invade Wales. When Jeffrey, bishop of Constance, raised a rebellion against William Rufus, he chose this city for the seat of war, and fortified it with an inner wall, which is supposed in part to continue to this day. Robert, the natural son of Henry the First, and brother to the empress Matilda, possessed himself of this city, upon her account, and having strengthened it with a castle, garrisoned it against king Stephen. The empress, on making her escape from the siege of Arundel castle, fled hither, and was followed by king Stephen; when hearing of his approach, she fled to Gloucester, and then to Lincoln. Stephen pursued her, but their armies joining battle, he was vanquished and taken prisoner; on which the empress ordered him to be conveyed to the city of Bristol, and there confined. His queen did all in her power to procure his release, but without effect. Upon which she assembled all the forces she was able to procure, and having Robert, earl of Gloucester, the queen's brother, in her power, resolved to treat him with as much severity as the empress had done the king, which had a good effect; for by this means she obtained the king's liberty.

On the 26th of February 1574, there happened in this city an earthquake, which caused the inhabitants to fly from their houses. Many chimnies

niés were thrown down, and the dishes and books fell from the shelves.

In the civil wars this city suffered greatly, and underwent many changes, it being alternately possessed by both parties.

As the city stands upon the north and south sides of the river Avon, it is partly in Gloucestershire, and partly in Somersetshire; but being a county of itself, it properly belongs to neither county. Indeed the greatest part of the city stands on the Gloucestershire side of the river, yet, before it was made a county of itself, it was always mentioned in the parliament rolls, as in Somersetshire. These parts of the city are connected by a stone bridge over the Avon. The streets are, for the most part, narrow, ill-paved, irregular and dirty, and the houses, like those of London, before the fire in 1666, are built with the upper floors projecting below the lower; they are crowded close together, and many are five or six stories high; but the new streets are broad and handsome; and every opportunity is taken of widening the streets, when the old buildings are pulled down. The Gloucestershire side of the city is four miles and a half in circumference, and the Somersetshire side two miles and a half; so that the whole circumference of the city is no less than seven miles. It is supposed to contain above thirteen thousand houses, and upwards of ninety-five thousand inhabitants. The city had formerly a castle, and was inclosed with walls; which were demolished in the time of king William Rufus, and the place on which the castle stood is now laid out into streets.

Here is a large square, called Queen's square, which is adorned with rows of trees, and in the center is an equestrian statue of king William the Third. On the north side of this square is the

custom-house, with a quay half a mile in length, said to be the most commodious in England. On the College-green, which is a very delightful place, that affords a view of the city and harbour, stands the cathedral, a Gothic structure, adorned with the effigies of several of the kings of England; but there is nothing in the building worthy of notice. It was formerly the collegiate church of a monastery, dedicated to St. Augustine, and was founded in 1148, by Robert Fitz Harding, mayor of Bristol; and towards the end of the reign of king Henry the Second, changed into an abbey, which, at the dissolution, had an annual revenue of 670 l. 13 s. 11 d. when it was erected by king Henry the Eighth into a cathedral, by the name of the cathedral church of the Holy Trinity; and in it was placed a dean, six prebendaries, and other officers. In this city are eighteen parish churches, besides seven or eight meeting houses of Protestant dissenters. Those of the churches which deserve particular notice are St. Mary Radcliff's, which is the principal parish church, and stands without the walls in the county of Somerset. It was built in the reign of king Henry the Sixth, by William Canning, an alderman of the city, and is a magnificent Gothic structure, with a high tower. The roof is curiously vaulted with stone, and this is reckoned one of the finest parish churches in England. St. Stephen's church stands in the heart of the city, and is remarkable for its beautiful tower. All Saints church is also remarkable for its fine tower, which is built in imitation of that of Bow church in Cheapside, London; and the Temple church is chiefly remarkable for its tower leaning on one side.

The city was governed by a mayor, so early as the reign of Henry the Third, and has now a mayor, a recorder, twelve aldermen, and forty-

two common-councilmen. The tradesmen of the city are incorporated into several companies, each of which has a hall, or a large room hired for their meeting; and by a charter of queen Elizabeth, every man that marries the daughter of a citizen of Bristol becomes free of the city. Here is a Guildhall, in which are held the assizes and sessions, with the mayor's and sheriffs courts; and adjoining to it is a spacious lofty room, called St. George's chapel, in which the mayor and sheriffs are annually chosen. Here is also a large council-room, in which the mayor and some of the aldermen meet every day, except Sundays, for the administration of justice. The Royal exchange is a fine structure, built in the manner of that at London, and is about two-thirds as large. It is all of free-stone, and the ground upon which it stands, cost the chamber of the city 20,000 l. It has four entrances to the square within, and above are rooms for shops. Behind the building is an extensive piece of ground laid out for the markets. In Wine street is a large structure, called the Corn-market, built of free-stone, and adjoining to it is a guard-room, with barracks for soldiers.

It ought not to be omitted, that here is a play-house, which is generally supplied in the summer season with actors from London; and that carts are not admitted into the city, for fear of damaging the arches of the vaults that are made underground; for which reason they make use of sledges in carrying their goods; but they render the pavement exceeding slippery.

There are in this city a free grammar-school, and eighteen charitable foundations, termed hospitals: these are, queen Elizabeth's hospital, in the north-west suburb of the city, founded by Maurice de Gaunt, before the year 1229, for a chaplain, and a hundred poor people. It



was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and St. Mark, and valued at the suppression at 112 l. 9 s. 9 d. per annum, when it was granted to the mayor and citizens. Afterwards it was again converted to a charitable use, by Mr. Carre, a wealthy citizen of Bristol, who is supposed to have lived in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and to have given her name to this hospital. In 1706, it was rebuilt, and farther endowed by contributions. Here a hundred boys are taught to read and write, and fitted for land or sea-service; and eight guineas is given as an apprentice fee with each boy, upon his leaving the hospital. All the boys are dressed much in the same manner as those of Christ's hospital by Newgate-street, London. Colston's hospital was founded by Edward Colston, Esq; for a hundred boys, who are taught and maintained for seven years, when they are put out apprentices. The master of this school is allowed 1000 l. a year, for the maintenance of the boys. There is also a school built and endowed by Edward Colston, for teaching and cloathing forty boys. In 1691 the same gentleman founded an hospital for twelve men, and as many women, with an allowance of three shillings a week each, and twenty-four sacks of coals a year, but the elder brother has six shillings a week: the governor has an apartment and gardens, with a handsome allowance; and here is a neat chapel, in which prayers are read twice every day. An hospital, founded partly by Edward Colston, and partly by the merchants of this city, for thirty poor men and women, who have each two shillings a week, besides coals. St. Peter's hospital, which is an infirmary opened in 1738, for the sick and distressed poor of this city. An hospital over against St. John's, for twelve men and twelve women, who are allowed 2 s. 4 d. a week each, with washing.  
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St. John's hospital where twelve women are allowed two shillings a week each, besides a sack of coals, and an additional shilling at Christmas. Foster's hospital for six men and eight women, each of which has a weekly allowance of two shillings; and Merchant Taylor's hospital, where two men and nine women have each 2 s. 6 d. a week, besides a dinner and one shilling each every three months.

In 1292 an alms-house was founded here by Simon Burton, mayor of Bristol, which is still in being, and accommodates sixteen poor people with lodgings, but has no endowment. In the fourth year of king Henry the Fifth, John Barnstaple, merchant of this city, founded an hospital here dedicated to the Holy Trinity, for six poor men, and as many women, with a priest to officiate for them. This hospital was granted by queen Elizabeth, to the corporation, who have so carefully improved the revenues, that it has now ten men and twenty-four women, who have three shillings each per week; and the vicar of St. Phillip's church has 8 l. a year to officiate for them. Under a hall belonging to the Tucker's company, is an ancient hospital, in which six poor persons have their dwellings, and twenty shillings a year each, from that company; and under a hall belonging to the weaver's company, is another ancient hospital for four poor women, who have about a shilling a week each from the company of weavers. Without the temple gate is an ancient hospital inhabited by eleven poor persons, but it has no endowment. In 1442 an hospital was founded here by William Cannings, mayor of this city, which is yet in being, and inhabited by seventeen poor persons, but has no endowment. And in St. James's parish is an hospital founded about the year 1460, agreeable to the will of the last men-

tioned gentleman, in which thirteen poor persons are lodged.

Considerable manufactures of woollen stuffs, particularly Cantaloons, are carried on in this city; and there are no less than fifteen glass-houses, for the making of drinking-glasses, bottles, and plate glass. Bristol had, till lately, the most considerable trade of any port in the British dominions, except London; but now its trade is said to be exceeded by Liverpool. It was computed near half a century ago, that the trade of this city employed no less than four hundred sail of ships. It has a very great trade to the West-Indies, and a considerable trade to Guinea, Holland, Hamburgh and Norway. A principal branch of its commerce is that with Ireland, from whence tallow, linen, woollen, and baize-yarn, are imported in vast quantities. Its trade to the Streights is also very considerable, and it has acquired the whole trade of South Wales, and part of that of North Wales, by means of the river Severn and the Wye. This city has three markets, which are held on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays; and two fairs, kept on the 25th of January, and the 25th of July. The first of these is called St. Paul's fair, and the other St. James's, at both which the Londoners have shops; and during the time they are kept, it is said some of the neighbouring inns make a hundred beds each.

This city had several religious foundations, besides those we have already mentioned. In the north-east suburb, Robert, the natural son of king Henry the First, and earl of Gloucester, built a priory of Benedictine monks, dedicated to St. James, and made it a cell to the abbey of Tewksbury in Gloucestershire. Before the reign of king Edward the Third, here was a college called the Calendars, a fraternity of the clergy and commonalty

monalty of Bristol, whose revenue at the suppression was valued at 10 l. 18 s. 8 d. per annum. On the north side of the city was a house of nuns, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, said to have been founded by Eva, the widow of Robert Fitz-Harding, in the reign of king Henry the Second, which was valued at the dissolution at 21 l. 11 s. 3 d. per annum. Here was also an hospital for a master, warden, and several poor brethren, dedicated to St. Catharine, and founded by Robert de Berkeley, who died in the fourth year of king Henry the Third. At its suppression, its revenue was valued at 21 l. 15 s. 8 d. per annum. In the suburbs of this city, on the Gloucestershire side, was an hospital for leprous persons, before the eighth year of the reign of king Henry the Third. About the year 1228, here was a house of Black friars, thought to have been founded by Maurice de Gaunt. A house of Grey friars was founded in this city before the year 1234, and a priory of White friars in 1297, by king Edward the First. Near the Temple Gate stood a house of Augustine friars, founded by Sir Simon and Sir William Montacute, about the beginning of the reign of king Edward the Second. Here was anciently an hospital called St. Margaret's; and mention is made of an hospital in this city dedicated to St. James, founded by Robert Fitz-Harding.

John Lewis, a late learned divine, historian, and antiquary, was born at Bristol, the 29th of August, 1675. He received the rudiments of grammar-learning in the free-school of Winbourn in Dorsetshire, from whence he removed to Exeter-college in Oxford, where he completed his studies. He became successively rector of Acris, rector of Saltwood, rector of Eastbridge, all in the county of Kent; and minister of Margate, and vicar of Minstre, in the Isle of Thanet. He resided at Margate from the year 1705, till the time



of his death, which happened on the 16th of January, 1747. He was the author of a great number of works, the principal of which are, *The life of Dr. Wicliffe*, and *The History and Antiquities of the Isle of Thanet*.

About a mile to the west of the city is St. Vincent's well, or the hot well of Bristol, which is on the north side of the river Avon, and affords a romantic and beautiful prospect. This rock is of lime-stone, as are all those called St. Vincent's rocks in general. It is extremely hard, and lapis calimmaris is found in great plenty in its neighbourhood. It is close to the north side of the river Avon, which is carried, as it were, in a deep trough, about two miles from the hot well towards King-road. The rocks on the sides of this channel are rough, craggy and romantic. Many of them are very high, and naturally formed into grotesque figures. In some places the cliffs hang over the river in an astonishing manner; and as many of them are covered with little shrubs, tall plants, tufts of grass, and short trees, they appear like little hanging woods, and afford a prospect scarce equalled by any in the kingdom. These rocks are not confined to the sides of the Avon, they being continued on each side, a great way up into the country: on the Gloucestershire side of the river is Durdham downs, and on the Somersetshire side Leigh-downs, which are large, extensive, and full of the same rocks, which in some places lie a little way under the surface, and in others rise above it, and are full of glittering particles that discover a variety of colours.

We have already given an account of the virtues of these waters, in treating of the mineral waters of this county; and it will be here proper to add, that though Bristol water is not termed a bath, yet there are several little private baths for one person to go in at a time. These are frequented

ed by persons who are afflicted with various sorts of weaknesſes; however, when they firſt go in, they generally think themſelves worſe for about the ſpace of a week, but afterwards find their ſtrength return. Likewise many perſons in health make uſe of theſe baths on account of their being cleanſing and reſreſhing, which they are to admiration. When a perſon goes into the little room where the bath is, he takes the key of the door with him, and taking hold of the iron rings which are faſtened in the walls, he ſteps backward down two or three ſteps, dips his head under water two or three times, and afterwards ſtays in, perhaps, five or ten minutes. Every perſon that goes in pays a ſhilling a time, and the bath is filled aſreſh for every perſon, every time he bathes.

A little to the ſouth of Briſtol is Upper and Lower KNOLL, the firſt of which was fitted up in the laſt war for the reception of thirteen hundred French priſoners, who knitted great numbers of thread ſtockings, and moſt kinds of toys, particularly models of ſhips, of wax. Lower Knoll, which was formerly a farm-houſe, ſaid to be haunted, was made an hoſpital for thoſe priſoners.

From Briſtol a road extends twelve miles ſouthweſt to WRINGTON, or WRINTON, a pretty good town, ſituated among Mendip-hills, at the diſtance of a hundred and twenty-five miles from London. It has a handſome church, which has a high tower, adorned with four pinnacles, and alſo a ſmall charity-ſchool. The inhabitants carry on a conſiderable trade in teazles, which grow in great abundance in the neighbourhood, and the town is remarkable for the lapis caliminaris, or calamine, that is dug up and prepared near it. It is ſometimes found in meadows, and ſometimes in paſture grounds; but moſt commonly in barren and rocky places, upon or near the hills. The earth where it lies is yellow or black, but the  
cala-

calamine itself of different colours, white, reddish, grey, or blackish, which last is accounted the best.

John Locke, one of the greatest and most profound philosophers that ever appeared in this, or in any other nation, was born, August the 29th, 1632, at Wrington, and educated, first at Westminster-school, and afterwards at Christ church in Oxford, of which he was chosen a student. Having finished, with much applause, his course of philosophy, he applied himself diligently to the study of physic; and in this he soon became so considerable a proficient, that, though he never practised, except among his own acquaintance, he was universally regarded as a most able physician. The great Sydenham, in particular, pays him the following compliment: "you know  
"likewise," says he, in the dedication to one of his pieces, "how much my method has been approved of by a person, who has examined it to the bottom, I mean Mr. John Locke; who, if we consider his genius, and penetrating and exact judgment, or the strictness of his morals, has scarce any superior, and few equals, living." Possessed, as he was, of the most excellent natural parts, and of a bold, free, and original turn of thinking, he was a declared enemy to all kind of systems. He had early imbibed an incurable antipathy to the common method of instruction then practised in the schools, where nothing was taught but the Aristotelian philosophy; a plan of education, which, in his opinion, tended only to perplex the young student; or, at least, to render him a wrangling disputant. He was much fonder of the philosophy of Des Cartes, which was just beginning to gain ground; not that he approved of all the notions of that great man, but because these were explained with the utmost perspicuity. It was his dissatisfaction, however,

however, with both these systems of knowledge, that probably first inspired him with the thoughts of undertaking those admirable works, which he afterwards finished, and which have rendered his name immortal. His attention, nevertheless, was not confined to moral philosophy, which seems to have been his favourite study, nor to physic, which was, in some measure, his profession; but extended likewise to other branches of learning, particularly to that of natural philosophy, as appears from a register, which he kept of the changes of the air at Oxford, from June 24, 1666, to March 28, 1667. So much merit could not remain long in obscurity. He was first appointed secretary to Sir William Swan, envoy from the English court to the elector of Brandenburg, and some other German princes. He afterwards accompanied the earl and countess of Northumberland to France. He likewise became acquainted with the famous earl of Shaftsbury, lord high chancellor of England, who introduced into the company of some of the greatest geniuses of the age, and procured for him the secretaryship of the presentations, and afterwards that to a commission of trade, a place worth about 500*l.* per annum. Nor had his lordship any reason to repent of his generosity. Mr. Locke adhered to him with unshaken fidelity amidst all the reverses of his fortune. He assisted him in composing those pieces, which he wrote against the government; and he even attended him to Holland, when his lordship was obliged to take refuge in that country. There Mr. Locke continued about seven years, and returning to England in the same fleet, which conveyed the princess of Orange, he was promoted to the post of commissioner of appeals. In 1695, he was appointed one of the commissioners of trade and plantations; and this place he held till 1700, when



when he resigned it on account of the bad state of his health. During the last fourteen or fifteen years of his life, he resided chiefly at Oates, a seat of Sir Francis Masham, in the county of Essex; and dying there October the 28th, 1704, was interred in the church of that place, under a decent monument, with an inscription written by himself. To give a catalogue of his works were, in some measure, to affront the reader, as they cannot be unknown to any person, who has the least pretensions to literature. Of his principal performance, *the Essay on Human Understanding*, lord Shaftesbury says, “ that it may qualify men as well for business and the world, as for the sciences and the university :” and Dr. Conybeare observes, and observes very justly, “ that Mr. Locke was the glory of the last age, and the instructor.”

Seven miles to the south by west of Wrington is AXBRIDGE, seated on the road from Bristol to Bridgewater, which derives its name from a bridge over the river Axe, on the north bank of which it stands, at the foot of Mendip-hills, and is a neat little town, about half a mile in length, consisting principally of one street. It is governed by a mayor, a bailiff, a recorder, a town-clerk, and other officers. The mayor has two maces carried before him, one by a serjeant, and the other by a person appointed by the bailiff. It formerly sent members to parliament, and at present has a market on Thursdays, and two fairs, held on the 25th of March, and the 11th of June, for cattle, cheese and toys. Teazles, a sort of thistles used in the woollen manufactory, are more cultivated here than in any other part of the kingdom.

Two miles to the south-east of Axbridge is CHEDDAR, or CHEDDER, a village famous for  
its

its excellent cheese, some of which are so large, as hardly to be placed on the table by one man; the reason of which is, that the neighbours usually put their milk together, in order to make a single cheese, which belongs to them in turn. By this means, the milk being always new, greatly contributes to its goodness. This village has two fairs, held on the 4th of May, and the 29th of October, for horned cattle, sheep and horses.

But what renders Cheddar most famous, is the stupendous chasm, or cleft, quite through the body of one of Mendip-hills, near this place, which seems as if the hill had been split in sunder by the shock of an earthquake. In walking about a quarter of a mile within the chasm, between the impending rocks on either side, which to strangers have an amazing appearance, some are observed standing on the bottom, that reach nearly the height of the cleft, and yet are entirely dis severed from the body of the rock. The passage between is but narrow, and yet the road for carriages extends through it, from this part of the country towards Bristol. At the entrance of the cleft is a remarkable spring of water, rising, as it were, upright out of the rocky basis of the hill, with so large and rapid a stream, that, within a few yards, it drives a mill, and is the second source of the river Axe.

At a small distance from Cheddar are caverns, of which Mr. Beaumont gives a particular description, in a letter to the Royal Society, published in the Philosophical Transactions, No. 2. These caverns are in a hill called Lamb, lying about the parish of Harptry, on Mendip-hills. " Being told, that a very great vault was discovered there, says he, I took six miners with me, and went to see it. First we descended a perpen-

“ perpendicular shaft, about seventy fathoms;  
“ when we came into a leading vault, which ex-  
“ tends itself in length about seventy fathoms; it  
“ runs not upon a level but descending, so that  
“ when you come to the end of it, you are twen-  
“ ty-three fathoms deep, by a perpendicular line.  
“ The floor of it is full of loose rocks; its roof  
“ is firmly vaulted with rocks of lime stone; ha-  
“ ving flowers of all colours hanging from them,  
“ which present a most beautiful object to the  
“ eye, being alway kept moist by the distilling  
“ waters. In some parts the roof is about five  
“ fathoms in height, and in others so low, that  
“ a man has much a-do to pass by creeping. The  
“ width, for the most part, is about three fa-  
“ thoms. This cavern crosses many veins of  
“ ore in its running, and much ore has been  
“ thence raised.

“ About the middle of this cavern, on the east  
“ side lies a passage into another, which runs be-  
“ tween forty and fifty fathoms in length. And  
“ at the end of the first, another vast cavern opens  
“ itself. I fastened a cord about me, and order-  
“ ed the miners to let me down; and upon the  
“ descent of twelve or fourteen fathoms I came  
“ to the bottom. This cavern is about sixty fa-  
“ thoms in circumference, about twenty in height,  
“ and about fifteen in length; it runs along after  
“ the rakes, and not crossing them as the lead-  
“ ing vaults do. I afterwards caused the miners  
“ to drive forward the breast of this cavern,  
“ which terminates it to the west, and after they  
“ had driven about ten fathoms, they happened  
“ into another, whose roof is about eight fa-  
“ thoms, and in some parts ten or twelve in  
“ height, and runs in length about one hundred  
“ fathoms.

“ The

“ The frequency of caverns on these hills,  
 “ he adds, may be easily gueſt at by the frequency  
 “ of ſwallow pits, which occur there in all parts,  
 “ and are made by the falling in of the roofs of  
 “ caverns ; ſome of theſe pits being of a large  
 “ extent and very deep. Some times our miners  
 “ ſinking in the bottom of theſe ſwallows, have  
 “ found oaks fifteen fathoms deep in the earth.”

Eight miles ſouth-eaſt of Cheddar is WELLS, which received its name from the many ſprings or wells in the town and its neighbourhood. It is ſituated nineteen miles ſouth of Briſtol, twenty ſouth by weſt of Bath, and one hundred and twenty-ſeven weſt by north of London, and is a ſmall, but clean place, at the bottom of Mendip-hills. This town was deſtroyed by the Danes, but afterwards recovered itſelf. It was erected into an episcopal ſee in the year 605 ; but John de Billula, the ſixteenth biſhop, transferred this ſee to Bath, and renounced the title of biſhop of Wells ; after which hot diſputes aroſe between the churches of Bath and Wells concerning the election of a biſhop ; but they were compromiſed about the year 1133, by biſhop Robert, and it was ſettled, that whenever the ſee became vacant, the biſhop ſhould be elected by the canons both of Bath and Wells ; but that the precedency in ſtile ſhould be given to Bath, and that he ſhould be inſtalled in both churches. Afterwards it was determined, that both churches ſhould make one full chapter for the biſhop. Wells was firſt made a free borough in the reign of Henry the Second, by the intereſt of Fitz-Joceline, its biſhop. It afterwards received a charter from king John, by which it was made a market-town, and was raiſed into a city by queen Elizabeth, under whoſe charter it is governed by a mayor, a recorder, ſeven maſters or aldermen, ſixteen gowns-men, or common-



mon-councilmen, and other officers. The members of parliament are chose by the citizens, admitted freemen of the seven incorporated companies of the city, who amount to above five hundred, and are returned by the mayor. In 1738, a dreadful fire broke out, which consumed above a hundred dwelling houses, in six hours time; so that very few had time to save their goods.

This is a very neat city, consisting of broad streets and handsome buildings. It has a cathedral, and only one parish church. The cathedral is said to have been first built by king Ina, about the year 704, but was afterwards so effectually repaired by bishop Fitz-Joceline, that it was considered as a new work. The front, which has been built upwards of five hundred years, is admired for its imagery and carved work in stone, and particularly for a window most curiously painted. Adjoining to the church are spacious cloysters, and a chapter-house of a circular form, supported by one pillar in the middle. There is also a close belonging to the cathedral, encompassed by very good houses, and the bishop's palace, in which is a fine chapel dedicated to St. John Baptist, erected by the above bishop Fitz-Joceline. This palace is one of the handsomest in the kingdom. It is encompassed with walls and a mote, and on the south side has the appearance of a castle. The members of this cathedral are the bishop, a dean, precentor, chancellor, three arch-deacons, a treasurer, a sub-dean, fifty-nine prebendaries, four priest-vicars, eight lay-vicars, an organist, six choristers and other officers. Near the bishop's palace is St. Andrew's well, which is reckoned one of the finest springs in the kingdom. This city has only one parish, which is called St. Cuthbert's, and is seven miles long, four broad, and includes not only the city but several hamlets.

In

## S O M E R S E T S H I R E 141

In this city is a charity-school, erected in 1714, for teaching twenty boys and twenty girls. An hospital was founded here by bishop Babwith, for thirty poor men and women; and another hospital was founded by bishop Still, for the maintenance of a small number of poor women. Mr. Bricks, a woollen draper, built an alms-house here for four poor men; Mr. Andrews built another for four poor women; Mr. Harper another for four poor wool-combers; and Mr. Llewellyn, another for poor women. In the middle of the city is the old market-house, called the Cross, and near it was some years ago erected another market-house, which is a handsome building, as is also the town-house, where the corporation meet, and the judges hold the assizes. Here is also a town-hall, which stands over bishop Babwith's hospital. Some bone-lace is made here, but the poor are chiefly employed in knitting of stockings. Here are two markets, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and six fairs, held on May 30, June 24, October 10, October 14, November 17, and November 30, for oxen, horses, sheep and hogs.

With respect to its ancient religious foundations, Hugh de Wells, archdeacon of this city, about the beginning of the reign of king John, founded an hospital, or priory here, dedicated to St. John Baptist, the revenue of which, was valued at the dissolution at 41 l. 3 s. 6 d. per annum. Before the year 1347, Walter de Hull, founded here a college for thirteen chantry priests, who officiated in the cathedral. This college was endowed at the suppression with lands and other revenues, amounting to 72 l. 10 s. 9 d. per annum, and was refounded by queen Elizabeth. Ralph Erghum, bishop of Bath and Wells, who died

died in 1401, appointed by his will, a college to be built and endowed for fourteen chantry priests, officiating in the cathedral. Accordingly a college was erected and endowed with revenues, which at the dissolution amounted, according to some, to 110 l. 18 s. 8 d. but according to others, to 120 l. 1 s. 4 d. a year.

George Bull, a learned writer, and venerable prelate, in the end of the last, and beginning of the present century, was born, March the 25th, 1634, at Wells, and educated at the free-school of his native place, and at Exeter-college in Oxford. His first station in the church, was that of being minister of St. George's near Bristol; whence he rose successively to be rector of Sud-dington in Gloucestershire, prebendary of Gloucester, archdeacon of Llandaff; and, in 1705, he was advanced to the bishopric of St. David's. This dignity he enjoyed about four years, and dying February the 17th, 1709, was interred at Brecknock. During the usurpation of Cromwell, he adhered steadily, though still with great prudence, to the forms of the church of England; and in the reign of king James the Second, preached very strenuously against the errors of popery. He wrote an *Apostolical Harmony*, a *Defence of the Nicene Faith*, *Judicium Ecclesiae Catholicae*, a book entitled, *Primitive Apostolical Tradition*, together with a good number of *Sermons*, which were all published after his death, in one volume, folio.

Two miles north-west of Wells, in the lower part of the south side of Mendip-hills, is the famous grotto, called OKEY, or WOKEY-HOLE, the most famous cavern in the west of England. You ascend the hill about thirty yards to the cave's mouth, by which lies a huge stone of an irregular form. The entrance is about fifteen or twenty feet

feet high, and not very narrow, opening into a very large cavern, resembling the body of a cathedral: but the upper part is very craggy, and covered with pendant rocks, which strike terror into a timorous spectator, especially as they appear by candle-light, by which they may be very plainly seen. From all parts of the roof there is a constant dripping of clear water, which, however, contains a great quantity of lapidescent particles, since from these droppings arise several stony cones, a great number of which were cut away about twenty-five years ago, and presented to Mr. Pope, to adorn his grotto. From the first cavern, you proceed on a gradual ascent, through a very narrow and uneven passage, into another, which is not altogether so high, but nearly as wide and as long; and in other respects, much like the first. From this you proceed through a long, low, and rocky passage, into a third vault, which has a cylindric roof, and on one side a fine sandy bottom, about fifteen or twenty feet wide, and on the other is a rivulet of water, extremely clear and cold, about eight or ten feet wide and two or three deep. Mr. Beaumont says, that this rivulet within the cave is stored with eels, and has some trout; if so, they will puzzle a naturalist to account for the manner in which they came there; since this river, after its course through the cavern, descends forty or fifty feet to the level ground, where it turns a paper-mill at a small distance from the foot of the hill. Indeed, at a public house just by, they shew the draught of a very large trout taken out of the same rivulet, which is the first source of the river Axe. The air of this cave is very cold and damp, and the loudest noise that can be made in these caverns, at a distance from the mouth, are not in the least audible



audible to those who are above on the outside of the hill.

Near Wokey Hole was found, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, a long plate of lead, on which was found the following inscription: TI CLAUDIUS CAESAR AVG. P. M. TRIB. P. VIII. IMP. XVI. DE BRITAN.

Four miles east by south of Wells is SHEPTON-MALLET, or SHIPTON-MALLET, which is situated twenty miles to the southward of Bristol, and a hundred and eleven from London. It is a large market town, and contains about one thousand two hundred houses; but being seated on hills, the streets are steep, narrow and irregular. It is well watered with rivulets, and has some considerable clothiers. It is governed by a constable, and has a market on Fridays, and a fair, on the 8th of August, for all sorts of cattle and cheese.

Walter Charleton, a learned physician, and voluminous writer of the seventeenth century, was born February the 2d, 1619, at Shepton-Mallet, and educated at Magdalen-hall in Oxford, where he made so rapid a progress in his studies, that, by the time he had attained to the twenty-second year of his age, he was created doctor of physic, and appointed one of the physicians in ordinary to king Charles the First. He afterwards became a member of the college of physicians, physician in ordinary to king Charles the Second, fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1691, was elected president of the college of physicians. Soon after, falling into narrow circumstances, he found himself under the necessity of seeking a retreat in the island of Jersey; but how long he continued there, or whether he ever returned to London, is uncertain. He died towards the latter end of the year 1707, aged eighty-seven. His works are numerous, and of various kinds, being

being partly physical, partly philosophical, and partly theological. The principal are, The Darkness of Atheism dispelled by the Light of Nature; *Physiologia Epicuro-Gassendo-Charletoniana*; Epicurus's Morals; The Immortality of the human Soul demonstrated; The natural History of Nutrition, &c. A Treatise on Stone-Henge, proving it to be a Danish monument; Anatomical Lectures, &c.

About a mile north of Shepton-Mallet, and half a mile from the Fosse-road, is MASBURY CASTLE, which is a camp of a round form a hundred and fifty paces in diameter. It has two entrances, which are opposite to each other, and the surrounding ditch has at one end a turn like a half moon, which renders the passage to it oblique. In this neighbourhood are many other ancient camps, whose ditches are hewn out of the solid rock.

Twelve miles north-east of Shepton-Mallet is FROME, or FROM, also called Frome-Selwood, which received its name from its being seated upon the bank of the river Frome, eleven miles to the south of Bath, and ninety-nine west of London. The country in which it stands, was anciently a great forest, called Selwoodshire; and no longer ago than the latter end of the last century, in the parts called Frome-Woodlands, was a considerable gang of money-coiners, many of whom were taken and executed; and the places in which they were concealed, laid open. The town, which is larger than some cities, is governed by two constables, annually chosen at the court-leet of the lord of the manor. The streets are very irregular, and it has only one church, which is a large and handsome structure, with a fine organ, and a ring of six bells. But here are six or seven meeting-houses for the presbyterians, baptists, and quakers, two of which, that is, one of the pres-

byterian meeting-houses, and one of the baptists, are built of free-stone, and are perhaps as handsome and spacious, as any meeting-houses in the kingdom. The town has a fine stone bridge over the river Frome, a free-school, and an alms-house, or rather work-house, with a chapel belonging to it. The inhabitants have a considerable manufacture of broad-cloth, in which such a number of hands were employed in the beginning of the present century, that it is said the town annually received from London, for this commodity alone, no less than 700,000 l. and between forty and fifty years ago, all England was supplied from hence with wire-cards for carding wool; the town has also been long famous for its excellent beer. It has a market on Wednesdays, and four fairs, held on the 24th of February, and the 22d of July, for cattle and cheese; on the 14th of September, for cheese; and on the 25th of November, for cattle and cheese. In this town was a monastery founded by St. Aldhelm, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary, before the year 705, which is thought to have been destroyed by the Danes.

At BARKLEY, a mile and a half to the eastward of Frome, was an hermitage, or small priory, founded by William, the son of Jeffery, before the year 1211. It was of the order of St. Austin, and was dedicated to St. Stephen, and at the suppression had an annual revenue, computed at 6 l. 5 s. 2 d.

At CHARTERHOUSE in Selwood forest was a Carthusian monastery, founded by those monks, on their first coming into England in 1181, which was the first of that order in the kingdom. It was built and endowed by king Henry the Second, who dedicated it to the Virgin Mary, St. John Baptist, and All-Saints; and at its dissolution, its revenues amounted to 215 l. 15 s.

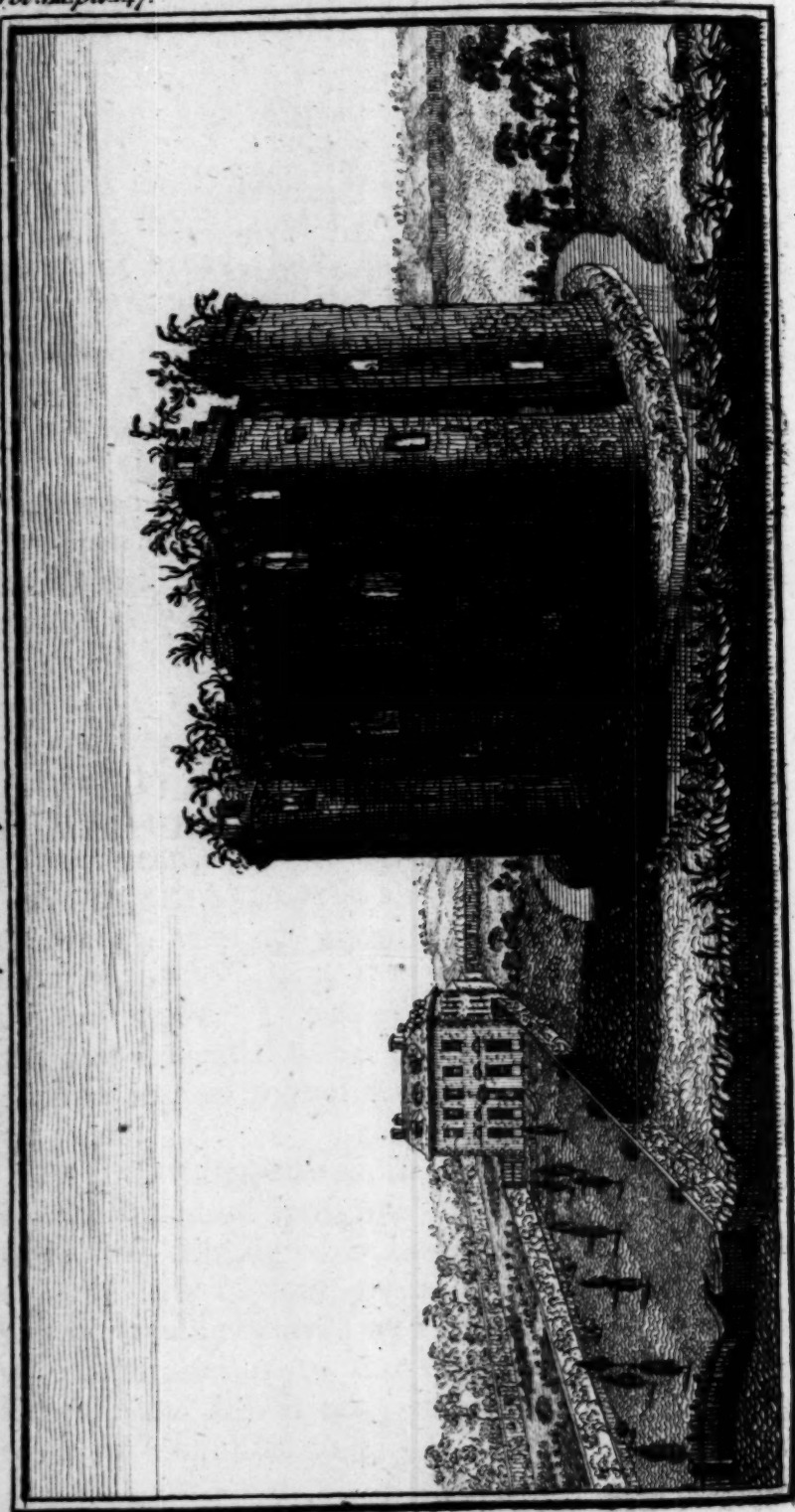
At





*The North East View of Nunney Castle, in the County of Somerset.*

*Vol. III. pa 147.*



At ELM, a village two miles west of Frome, was discovered in the year 1691, a pot of Roman coins, most of which were of Constantine the Younger. There are here the remains of an ancient Roman camp, seated upon a precipice, and separated from the rest of the hills, by a vallum on one side only.

BUCKLAND, a village three miles north-west of Frome, had an hospital founded by Amy, countess of Devonshire, for knights hospitallers of the order of St. John of Jerusalem, the revenues of which were valued at the dissolution at 223 l. a year. Buckland had formerly a market on Tuesdays, which has long been discontinued; but it has still a fair, on the 10th of October, for cattle and cheese.

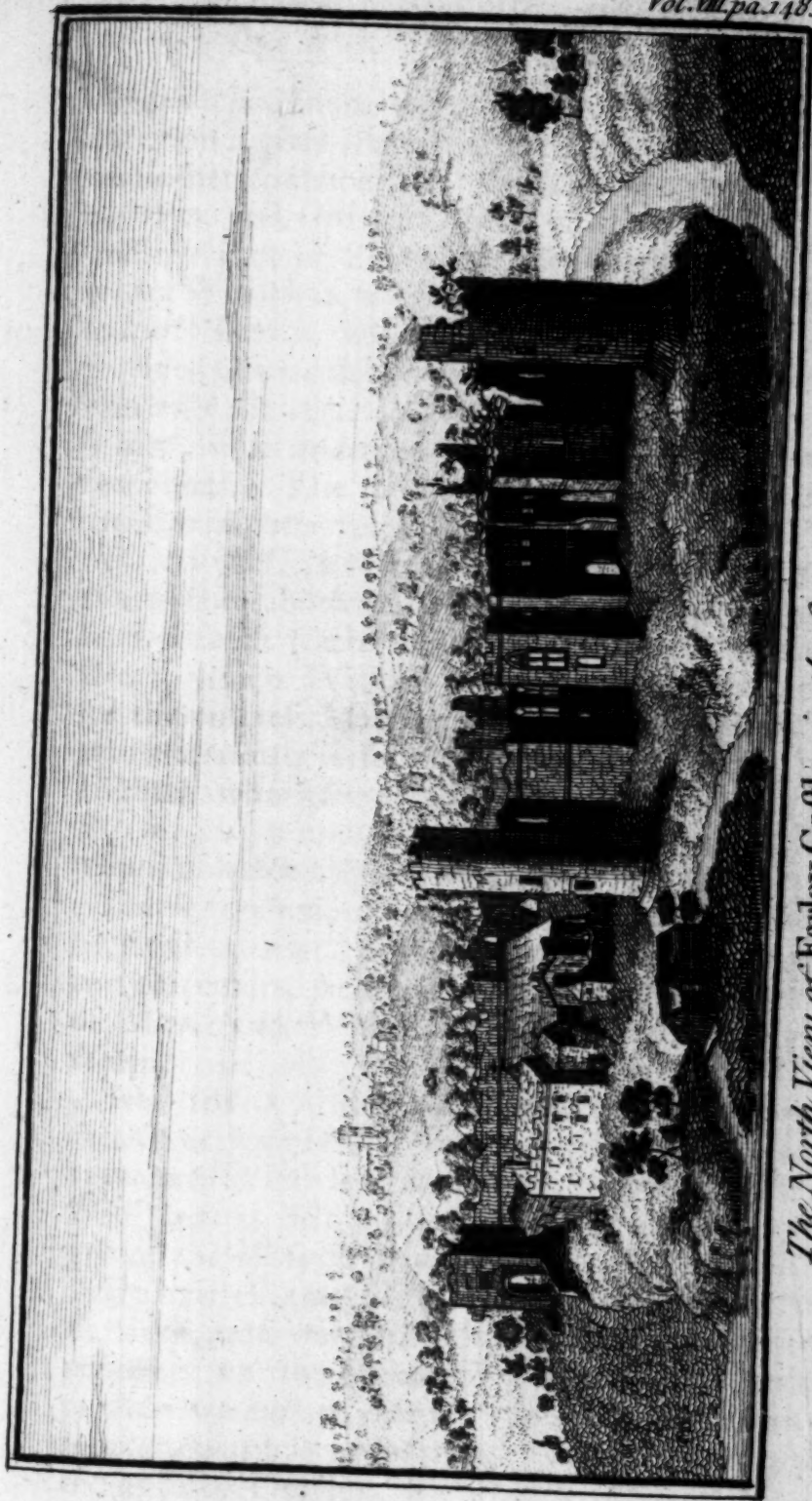
Three miles south-west of Frome is NUNNEY, a village which has a castle, that for several centuries was the seat of the family of Delamare; but in the reign of king Richard the Second, it passed by an heiress into the family of Paulet, ancestor to the present duke of Bolton; and in the reign of queen Elizabeth, the first marquis of Worcester sold it to John Prater, Esq; whose descendants sold it to John Whitchurch, Esq; Of this structure we have given an engraved view. Nunney has a fair on the 11th of November, for cattle.

PHILIP'S NORTON is seated four miles north of Frome, and is so called from its church, which is dedicated to St. Philip, and consists of one street, half a mile in length. It has a market on Thursdays, and four fairs, held on the 21st of March, for cattle and cloth; on the 27th of the same month for cloth; on the 1st of May it has one of the greatest fairs in England, of so short a duration, for cloth, &c. and on the 29th of August, for cattle and cloth.

WELLOW, a village which gives its name to the hundred in which it stands, is seated two miles to the north-west of Philip's Norton. In this manor was discovered in the year 1685, a Roman pavement of white, blue, and red tiles. Wellow has two fairs, which are held on the 20th of May, and the 17th of October, for cattle.

FARLEY castle is about two miles east of Philip's Norton, and was once in the possession of the family of Montfort, but in the reign of king Richard the Second, it was sold to Sir Robert Hungerford of Hungerford, first speaker of the House of Commons, whose descendants in succeeding ages, lived in great splendour till the reign of king Henry the Eighth, when a large part of the family estate passed by an heiress, into the family of the Hastings, and is now enjoyed by the earl of Huntingdon. This castle, of which we have given an engraved view, has been a large and beautiful structure.

We shall now enter this county from Maiden-Bradley in Wiltshire, and proceed south-west to BRUTON, which is seated on the river Brew, or Bry, from whence it takes its name, twelve miles south-east of Wells, and a hundred and fifteen west of London. It is a well built, populous place, with a handsome church, a free-school, and a stately alms-house, in a part of an abbey of canons regular of St. Augustin, founded by Ailmer, earl of Cornwall, in the year 1005, in the reign of king Ethelred. It was pretty well endowed at first, and afterwards had several benefactors; so that, at the time of the suppression of religious houses, its revenue was valued at 439 l. a year by Dugdale; and at 480 l. by Speed. This town has a stone bridge over the river Brew, and in the market place is a spacious hall, in which the quarter-sessions are sometimes held for the eastern



*The North View of Farley Castle, in the County of Somerset.*





eastern division of the county. The inhabitants carry on a good trade, in stockings, malt, serges, and other commodities. It has a market on Saturdays, and two fairs, held on the 4th of May, and the 19th of September, for cattle.

At WITHAM, a village nine miles north-north-east of Bruton, was a monastery of Carthusians, founded according to Leland, by king Henry the Second, but according to Camden, by Henry the Third, who endowed it with several lands and franchises. The time of its suppression is not mentioned, nor yet its valuation.

CASTLE CARY, is seated about three miles to the west by south of Bruton, and derives its name from a castle seated a little to the south of the river Brew, which William Lovell, its lord, defended for the empress Matilda, against king Stephen. It was afterwards forfeited by rebellion to Henry the Eighth, who gave it to the lord Willoughby de Broke, but is now in ruins. The town is only remarkable for a spring of purging water, impregnated with alum, on account of which it is now much frequented. It has a market on Tuesdays, and three fairs, held on Midlent-Tuesday, the 1st of May, and Whitfun-Tuesday, for cattle and sheep.

At LIDFORD, five miles west of Castle-Cary, there was formerly a weekly market upon Tuesdays, which has long been discontinued, but there is still a fair, held on the 1st of August, upon the green, for all sorts of cattle.

QUEENS-CAMEL is six miles south-west of Castle Cary, and was probably so called from its dependance on the queens of England, tho' which of them we are not able to determine, nor yet what reputation it had formerly. It has now a fair, on the 25th of October, for all sorts of cattle.

Thirteen miles west by south of Castle-Cary is SOMERTON, which is an ancient town that gives name to the whole county; for it was once the seat of the West-Saxon kings, where they had a castle, which Ethalbald, king of the Mercians, took by storm, and in which John, king of France, was prisoner, it being appropriated for state prisoners of the highest rank; but it is now quite gone to ruin. Somerton is a healthy place, seated on a branch of the Parret, and is governed by a bailiff chosen by the inhabitants. The church is an old structure, with an octagonal tower. It has a hall for the petty sessions, a free-school for teaching Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and an alms-house for eight poor people. Its chief support is its market and fairs, for cattle, which are fed on the adjacent common; for butchers resort thither from all the neighbouring towns to buy cattle, especially at the summer fairs. It has a market on Mondays, and four fairs, held on Tuesday in Passion-week, on the Tuesday three weeks after, on the Tuesday six weeks after, and on the Tuesday nine weeks after Passion-week, for all sorts of cattle.

Seven miles to the north of Somerton is GLASTONBURY, or GLASTENBURY, which is situated at the distance of a hundred and twenty miles west by south of London, in a peninsula formed by the river Bry, and a small nameless stream. The peninsula is called the Isle of Avalon, a name, which some have supposed to be derived from Avalla, which, in the ancient British language, signifies apples; for the production of which this spot was, perhaps, formerly distinguished. This town is chiefly famous for its abbey, which is reckoned the most ancient Christian church in Great-Britain, it being said to be founded by Joseph of Arimathea, about 31 years after the death of our Saviour,

Saviour, and that he having converted a great part of the island, obtained of king Arviragus twelve hides of land about this place, for a perpetual endowment for twelve devout Christians. We are also told, that his immediate successors lived in a hut made with earth, and covered with boughs. We have, however, authentic accounts, that in the beginning of the fifth century, there was a remarkable settlement of monks at this place, and it is commonly said, that king Arthur, with several of the West-Saxon kings, were buried here. Some have maintained that St. Patrick, the apostle of Ireland, was a monk of Glastonbury. This monastery was afterwards liberally endowed by king Ina, Edmund the Elder, and other Saxon kings and nobles. St. Dunstan, abbot of this place, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, introduced the Benedictine order in the year 954, and it continued under his rule till the dissolution of religious houses, when Richard Whiting, the last abbot, refusing to surrender the abbey, was accused of high treason, for which he was condemned and executed. The abbot was a lord in parliament, and the revenues of the abbey were valued at the suppression of religious houses, at 3311 l. a year by Dugdale; and at 3508 l. by Speed. Near this place is a hill called the Torr, hanging over the town of Glastonbury, upon which the abbots built a church, dedicated to St. Michael. The tower still stands, though ruinous, and is said to be an excellent sea-mark, it being on higher ground than any within ten miles of the place. Some affirm, that there is a passage from hence under ground to the abbey. From this eminence the abbot might view a vast tract of rich land belonging to himself, and seven parks well stocked with deer, belonging to the abbey.



As this hill is peculiarly remarkable for the holy thorn and walnut-tree that grew in the church-yard there, it is proper to take some notice of them. Of the former, many absurd accounts have been given. It is supposed to have sprung from St. Joseph of Arimathea's dry staff, which he stuck in the ground, on his resting there; and constantly to blossom on Christmas-day. It had two trunks till the reign of queen Elizabeth, when, we are told, that a puritan, hewed down the biggest of the trunks, and would probably have cut down the other, had he not been miraculously punished, for this supposed sacrilege, by cutting his leg, and by one of the chips flying up to his head, and putting out one of his eyes. Nay, we are even told, that though the trunk was quite separated from the root, and stuck only by a little of the bark, it continued to flourish for above thirty years, and after its being quite taken away, and thrown into a ditch, it flourished and budded as it used to do before. The remaining trunk was as large as the body of a man, and, in all respects, resembled the common white thorn; and though the bark was cut and mangled, by the people who resorted thither to see it, and cut their names upon it, yet the arms and boughs, spread circularly to a great extent; and afforded shelter for the cattle who fed there. This trunk was cut down in the civil war, but there are at present many trees of the same kind about the town, obtained from grafting and inoculation; and some years ago, a person at Glastenbury had a nursery of them. The pretended miracles performed for the preservation of this tree, and the veneration paid to it even by protestants of great learning, is very astonishing. It is not certain that Joseph of Arimathea was ever in Britain, and it is not true that the branches of it, which were saved and  
planted

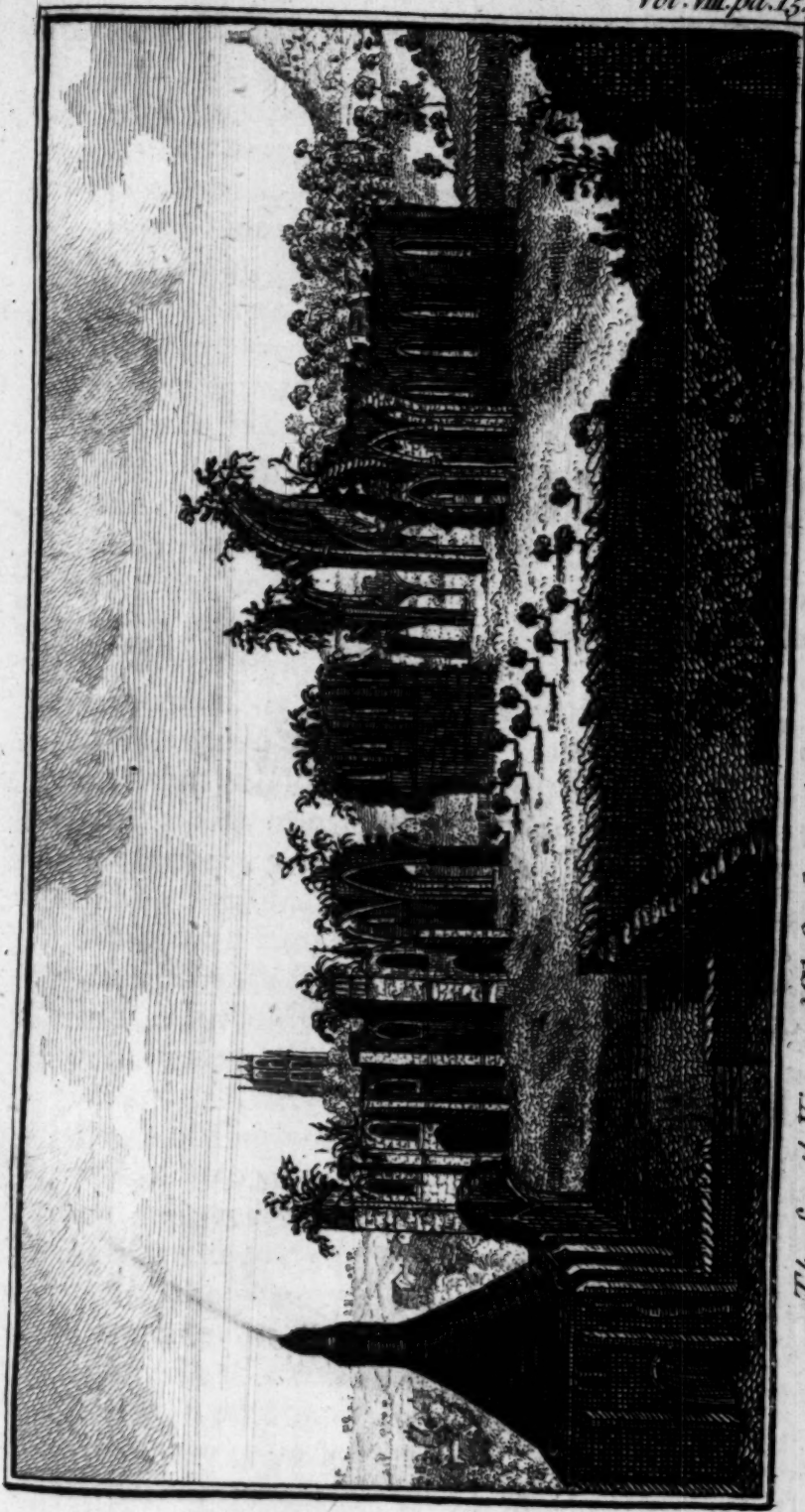
planted in the neighbourhood, bud always, or only upon Christmas-day, old stile, for they frequently blossom three or four days after, and seldom so early as Christmas-day, except the weather be exceeding mild.

A walnut-tree, which grew near St. Joseph's chapel, was remarkable for never budding before the feast of St. Barnabas, when it is said to have shot out leaves in great abundance. This tree has also been cut down many years, but there are still some growing in the county from branches of it. Mr. Ray thinks the latter is what is commonly called *Nux Sancti Johannis*, which shoots about Midsummer, and that the former differs only accidentally from the *frutex*, and ascribes the singular effect of its blossoming about the time of Christmas either to chance or art.

But to proceed, there are still to be seen vast ruins of this magnificent abbey, consisting of large walls overgrown with ivy; the abbots kitchen, built of stone, is still entire; it is of a square form, and four fire-places fill the four angles. In the flat part of the roof between these, rises an arched octagonal pyramid, crowned with a double lantern, one within another. There was also a lesser pyramid, in which hung a bell to call the poor people to the adjacent almonry, whose ruins are on the north side of the kitchen. The vaulted roof is supported by eight curved ribs, and has eight funnels for letting out the steam through the windows. The church was large and magnificent; the walls of the choir are still standing, and it was fifty yards long and twenty-four broad. One jamb at the east end of the high altar is left, and near it were buried king Edgar, and many of the Saxon kings. Two pillars of the great middle tower are left next the choir, and on the north side is St. Mary's chapel,

now turned into a stable. St. Edgar's chapel is opposite to it, but there is little of it left besides the foundation. A small part of the south side of the wall of the body of the church remains, which made one part of the cloysters, as does also the arch at the east end the chapel of Joseph of Arimathea. The present work is about forty-four paces long and thirty-six wide, and is so entire, that the whole structure might be readily drawn from it. The roof is chiefly wanting, but there are two little turrets at the west end, and two more at the distance of four windows from thence. Underneath there was a vault, now full of water, the floor of the chapel being beaten down into it. Here was a capacious receptacle for the dead, out of which the people have taken many leaden coffins, and melted them into cisterns. The sides of the walls have a multitude of small pillars, as had likewise the whole church; but most of them are beaten down. Between them the walls were adorned with the pictures of saints, which may still be discerned. On the south side of the cloysters was a great hall, but the town's people bought the stones of the vaults underneath, to build a market-house for meal; but in this they were their own enemies, as the ruins of the abbey brought a great number of strangers purposely to view them, which is still their greatest trade, as it was formerly their only support. But these ruins are now in so miserable a condition, much stone being carried away for different purposes, that few people spend much money in the town. Of these ruins we have given a view.

It having been recorded in ancient songs, that the British king Arthur was interred in the abbey church of Glastenbury, king Henry the Second ordered a search to be made there for his tomb; and about seven feet under ground, a kind of tomb-



*The South View of Glastonbury Abbey, in the County of Somerset.*





tomb-stone was found, with a large plate of lead fixed in it, on which was the following inscription, in barbarous Gothic letters: HIC IACIT SEPULTVS INCLITVS REX ARTVRIVS IN INSVLA AVALONIA. About nine feet below this monumental stone, was found a coffin of hollowed oak, containing the bones of a human body, supposed to be that of king Arthur.

Here was an hospital for poor infirm persons, founded in 1246, and dedicated to St. John Baptist, by Michael, abbot of Glastonbury, which was under the care of the almoner of the monastery. Also Richard Beere, abbot of Glastonbury, in the beginning of the reign of king Henry the Eighth, built an alms-house with a chapel, on the north side of the abbey, for several poor women.

While this town was under the protection of its abbots, it was a parliamentary borough, but upon the dissolution of its abbey, it not only lost that privilege, but ceased to be a corporation, till it was incorporated by queen Anne, who granted it a new charter for a mayor and burgesſes. The town has two churches, the uppermoſt of which is a handsome ſtructure, with a ſinetower, adorned with figures in the niches. The George-inn is an old ſtone building, called the Abbot's-inn, where the pilgrims who came hither were lodged. Over the gate is a coat of arms of the kings of England, ſupported by a lion and a bull; and in a room in the inn was a bed of large timber, in great embossed gilt pannels, which ſeemed to have been the abbots.

In the year 1751, a diſcovery was thought to be made of the ſalubrity of the waters of a ſpring in this town, which, for ſome time, occaſioned a prodigious reſort of people thither; but they have now loſt their reputation. The only manufacture carried on in this town, is that of

stockings. It has a market on Tuesdays, and a fair on the 8th of April, for all sorts of cattle.

Henry Fielding, the English Cervantes, and, in point of true humour, inferior only, if even inferior, to the Spaniard of that name, was the eldest son of the honourable lieutenant-general Edmund Fielding, grandson to the earl of Denbigh; and was born, April the 22d, 1707, at Sharpham-park, near Glostenbury, in Somersetshire. He had his education first under a private tutor, afterwards at Eton-school, and, last of all, at the university of Leyden in Holland. Returning to England about his twentieth year, and having no prospect of any kind of settlement from his father, who was incumbered with a large family, he immediately commenced writer for the stage; and his first play, called *Love in several Masks*, was acted with applause in 1727. To this succeeded, in a very little time, his *Temple Beau*; and he thus proceeded to write with such rapidity, that, in the space of ten years, he produced no less than eighteen theatrical performances. These, however, being composed in a hurry, and, of consequence, at best, but irregular pieces, were but indifferently received. Upon the death of his mother, he succeeded to an estate of about 200 l. a year; but this (such was his prodigality, and his want of oeconomy) he very soon exhausted. He then applied himself to the study of the law; and taking chambers in the Temple, he prosecuted that branch of learning with unwearied diligence. Finding, however, that there was very little prospect of his succeeding in that profession, he resumed, in a short time, the occupation of an author; and a great number of political pamphlets, on the current topics of the day, were the productions of his pen. He at length became sensible, from repeated

peated experience, that his talents were chiefly turned to fabulous narration; and the morning, noon, and evening of his genius are conspicuously apparent in his *Joseph Andrews*, *Tom Jones*, and *Amelea*. Being disabled by the gout, with which he had long been afflicted, from pursuing the business of a barrister (for he had now qualified himself for that employment) he accepted the office of an acting magistrate in the commission of the peace for the county of Middlesex, with an annual pension out of the public service money. His gout at length terminated in a jaundice, a dropsy, and an asthma; and all these diseases at length gained upon him to such a degree, that he was obliged to resign his office to his half-brother, then Mr. now Sir John Fielding: and after trying in vain, or but with very little effect, a great number of remedies, he made a voyage to Lisbon by the advice of his physicians. There, however, he tarried but a short time; and upon his return to England, keeping up to the last the gaiety of his spirit, he wrote a very pleasant account of his journey. He survived his return about two months, departing this life in August, 1754. He left behind him at his death a widow and four children; three of whom were living in 1762, and were training up in a handsome course of education, under the care of their uncle, with the aid of a very generous donation given annually for that purpose, by Ralph Allen, Esq; of Prior Park near Bath. This gentleman, who is since dead, bequeathed to the widow and to each of the children a legacy of 100 l. Mr. Fielding's works were published in 1762, in eight volumes, 8vo.

Returning back to Somerton, we shall proceed four miles south-west to LANGPORT, which is seated on the top of a hill, on a bank of the river Parret,



Parret, at the distance of one hundred and twenty-nine miles west by south of London. It is surrounded with a moorish country, but is a great thoroughfare in the road from London, Taunton, and other towns in the west. It formerly sent members to parliament, but has lost that privilege. It is, however, governed by a portreeve and a recorder. There are barges which pass constantly between this place and Bridgewater, carrying coals and other commodities. It is observed in the Philosophical Transactions, that eels are taken in vast plenty, out of holes near the banks of the river, in frosty weather; for the people walking upon the edges of the banks, observe some places not to be so white as the rest, but of a green colour, where upon searching, they are sure to find heaps of eels, which are sold for a trifle. Langport has a market on Saturdays, and four fairs, held on the second Monday in Lent, for fat cattle; on the 29th of June, for horned cattle and lambs; on the 24th of September, for fat cattle and sucking colts; and on the 11th of November, for fat cattle, hogs and sheep.

At MUCHELNEY, or MUCHNEY, a little island on the south side of Langport, in the river Ivel, was a monastery of Black friars, founded, according to Leland, by Ina, king of the West Saxons, in the year 740, but Camden says it was founded by king Athelstan, who reigned in the beginning of the tenth century. Its revenues at the suppression were valued at 499 l. a year.

About six miles west by north of Langport, is the Isle of ATHELNEY, a name derived from the ancient Saxon word Aetheling, which signifies an island of nobles, it being so called from its being the place to which king Alfred retreated with a few of his nobles, to conceal himself after being defeated by the Danes, who over-ran all England.

## S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 159

England. This island, which scarcely contains two acres of ground, is seated in the river Parret, near its confluence with the Thone. In this island, the king afterwards built a monastery, which continued till the dissolution, at which time it was valued at 209 l. a year, both by Dugdale and Speed. In 1674, when workmen were employed in digging deep, to lay the foundation of a house, they found a tomb which had nothing in it but a piece of cloth, a skull and a hip bone; the sides and bottom of the coffin were of free-stone. On digging farther, they came to the foundation of the monastery, and found the basis of the pillars of the church, consisting of wrought free-stone, and also a kind of medal of St. Cuthbert, with a Saxon inscription, importing that it was made by king Alfred. It appeared by its form to have hung by a string, and it is thought that the king wore it, either as an amulet, or in veneration of St. Cuthbert, who is said to have appeared to him in his troubles, and assured him of the victories he afterwards obtained over the Danes.

From Langport we shall proceed twelve miles north-west to BRIDGEWATER, which is a large and populous town, seated on the river Parret, at the distance of one hundred and forty-three miles from London. Its present name is thought to be a corruption of Brugge-Walter, or Walter's borough, a name by which it is supposed to have been called soon after the conquest, when, with several other lordships in this county, it was bestowed by William the Conqueror, on Walter de Douay, one of his commanders. It had a castle built in the reign of king John, by William de Brivere, lord of Bridgewater, who also founded an hospital near the east gate, which was a chantry to pray for the souls of Henry the Second,

cond, Richard the First, and king John. He also made the quay. Here was likewise an hospital founded by William Bruer, in the reign of king John, consisting of a prior or master, and brethren, who were to maintain thirteen poor infirm persons, besides pilgrims; and for that purpose was endowed with revenues, to the amount of 120 l. 19 s. 1 d. per annum. Here was likewise a house of Grey friars, founded by William Bruer, the son of the preceeding, about the year 1230.

This town was made a free borough by king John; and a mayor town by Henry the Fourth, and Henry the Eighth constituted it a distinct county. It is at present governed by a mayor, a recorder, two aldermen, who are justices of the peace, and twenty-four common-council men. Here is also a water-bailiff, a town-clerk, and two serjeants at mace. There are annually chosen out of the common-council, two bailiffs, who are invested with a power equal to that of a sheriff; for the sheriffs of the county cannot send any process into the borough. A receiver is also annually chosen out of the common-council, to collect the town rents and make payments. The inhabitants paying scot and lot elect members for parliament. The revenues of the corporation, consisting of the manor of the borough, the great and small tithes, and some estates in Dorsetshire, are valued at 10,000 l. a year; and the freemen are free of all the ports in England and Ireland, except London and Dublin.

This is one of the most considerable towns in the county. Its port is situated only a few miles from Bristol channel, upon the river Parret, by which ships of two hundred tons may come up to its quay. Its church has one of the loftiest spires in England. There is here also a fine meeting-

ing-house, with particular seats allotted for such of the mayors and aldermen as may happen to be dissenters ; and here is a private academy for such of their youth as are intended for preachers. At a small distance from the church is a large free-school, built of free-stone ; and under the school-room, are lodgings for the poor of the parish. Here is a spacious town-hall, and a high cross ; and under the cross is a cistern, to which water is conveyed by an engine from a neighbouring brook, and thence conveyed to most of the streets. The town has also a stone bridge over the Parret, which was begun by William de Brivere, who built the castle, and was finished by Thomas Trivet, the succeeding lord of the manor. Here is likewise a neat alms-house, erected by major Ingram of Westminster, who was a native of this town.

By its being happily situated, so as to enjoy the benefits of navigation, Bridgewater carries on a pretty good coasting trade, to Bristol, Wales, and Cornwall ; and upwards of twenty coal ships are constantly employed from this port. Great quantities of wool are also imported hither from Ireland. Its foreign trade extends chiefly to Portugal and Newfoundland, and the receipt of the customs amounts to upwards of 3000 l. a year. Bridgewater gives the title of duke to the noble family of Egerton. Its markets are held on Thursdays and Saturdays, and are the most considerable in the county for corn, horned cattle, sheep, hogs and cheese ; and there is no part of England in which provisions are cheaper. It has four fairs, held on the second Thursday in Lent, the 24th of June, the 21st of September, and the 28th of December, for cattle and all sorts of goods.

Robert Blake, one of the greatest and most renowned admirals, that ever appeared in this, or  
any

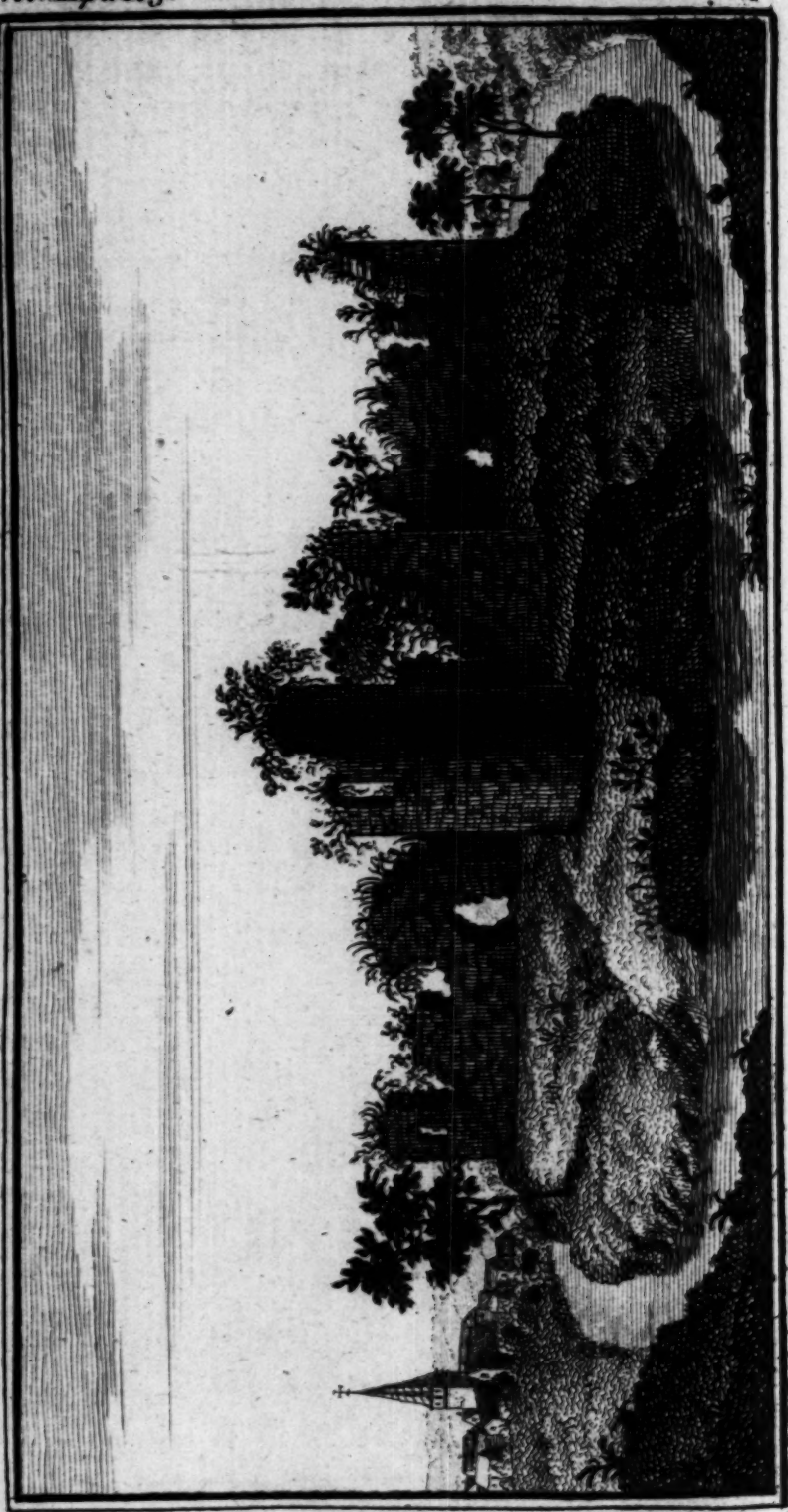


any other nation, was born, in 1589, at Bridge-water, and educated at St. Alban's hall in Oxford. The earlier part of his life he passed as a private gentleman; and, upon the meeting of the long parliament in 1640, was chosen member for the place of his nativity. When the civil war broke out, he accepted of a command in the parliamentary army, and signalized himself remarkably in the defence of Taunton. He afterwards entered into the sea service, and shewed, by his conduct, as well as by his courage, that the knowledge of that art may be acquired in much less time, and with much less experience, than is commonly imagined. He beat the Dutch in several engagements, though commanded by their bravest admirals, Van Tromp, De Ruyter, and De Witt. He cannonaded Tunis, burnt nine Turkish ships, and landing a body of one thousand two hundred men, cut off above three thousand of the enemy. He thence sailed to Algiers and Tripoli, and compelled those piratical states to deliver up the English captives. But the greatest and most glorious action that ever he performed, and indeed one of the most heroic that is to be found in ancient or modern history, was that which he atchieved in the month of April, 1657; when he entered, amidst a terrible discharge of artillery from the surrounding forts and castles, the bay of Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe; and after destroying a Spanish plate-fleet of sixteen ships, retired without sustaining any considerable damage. He died of a dropsy and scurvy in his return to England, on the 17th of August of the same year. Never man, so zealous for a faction, was so much respected and esteemed even by the opposite factions. He was by principle an inflexible republican; and the usurpation of Cromwell, it was thought, notwithstanding the many



*The West View of Stoke Courci Castle, in the County of Somerset.*

Vol. VII. pa. 103.



## S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 163

many marks of favour which he received from the protector, was far from being agreeable to him. *It is still our duty*, he said to the seamen, *to fight for our country into whatever hands the government may fall.* Disinterested, generous, liberal, ambitious only of true glory, dreadful only to his avowed enemies, he forms one of the most perfect characters of that age, and the least stained with those errors and violences, which were then so predominant. The protector ordered him a pompous funeral at the public charge; but the tears of his countrymen were the most honourable panegyric on his memory.

About two miles to the south of Bridgewater is NORTH PETHERTON, a village which was formerly of more note than it is at present, since it gives its name to the hundred in which it stands. It has, however, still a fair on the 1st of May, for shoes and toys.

HUNTSPILL, is a considerable village, seven miles below Bridgewater, seated on the river Parret, near its influx into the sea, and has a fair on the 29th of June, for cattle and sheep.

CANNINGTON is a village six miles south-west of Huntspill, where was a Benedictine nunnery, founded by Robert de Courcy, in the beginning of the reign of king Stephen. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and at the dissolution contained a prior and six or seven nuns, at which time its revenue was valued at 39 l. 15 s. 8 d.

Five miles north-west of Cannington is STOKES COURCY, where are the ruins of a castle, which shew that it has been a very large and strong structure. It took its name from the family of the Courcies, who flourished in the reign of William the Conqueror, and was the seat of William de Courcy, butler to king Henry the Second. This castle was surprized and burnt by the lord Bonville,



ville, in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Henry the Sixth, and was never after repaired. There are only some parts of the shattered walls remaining, and of these remains we have given an engraved view. The church of this village was dedicated to St. Andrew, and, with some lands and tithes, was given to the abbey of Lolley in Normandy, in the reign of king Henry the Second, upon which a prior and convent were settled in this church, and it continued a cell to that foreign monastery till the dissolution of alien priories.

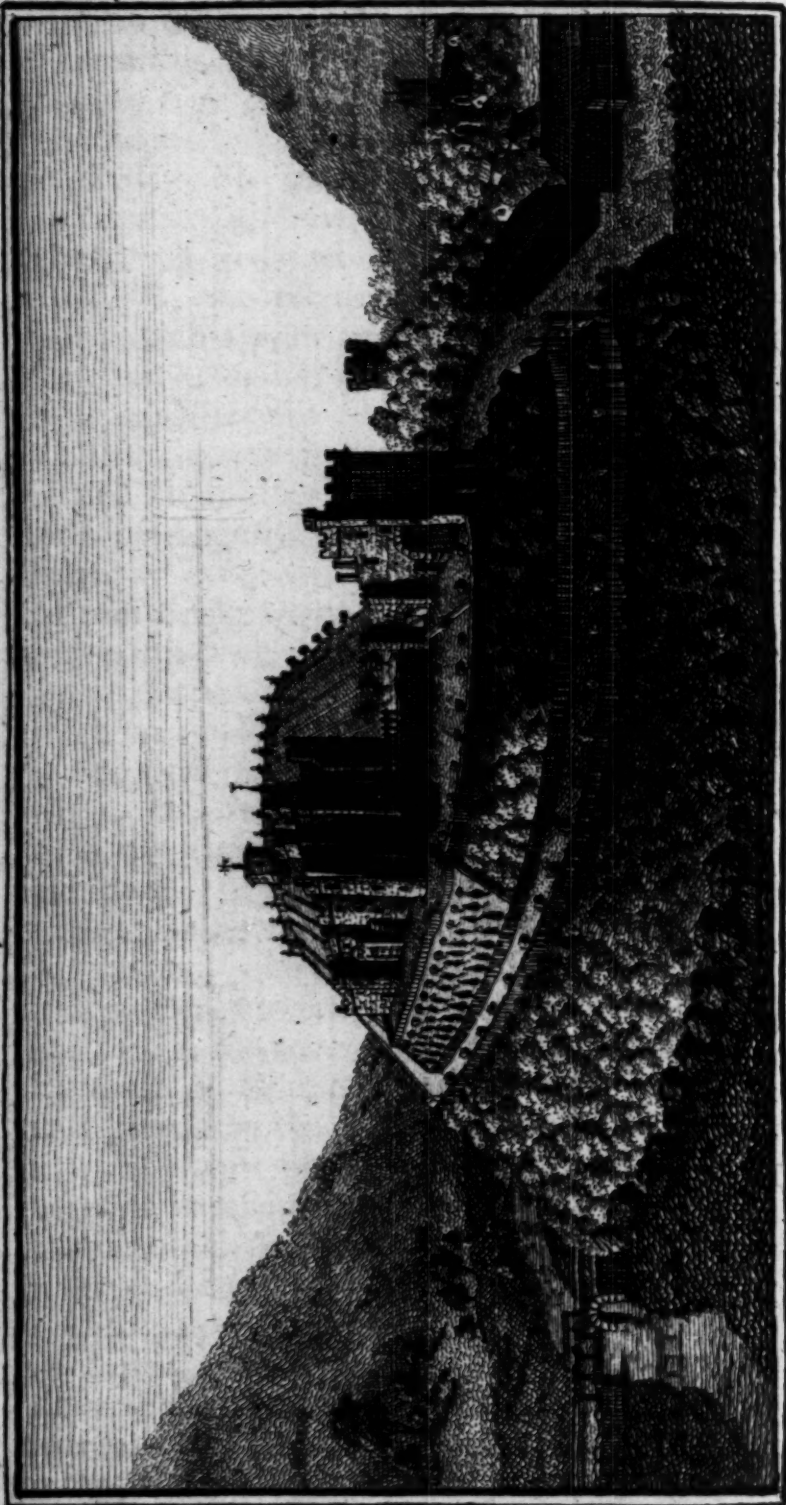
EAST BRENT is a village five miles north by east of Huntspill, where there is a fair on the 26th of August, for horned cattle, horses and sheep.

From Bridgewater a road extends seven miles west-north-west to STOGURSEY, where king Henry the Second is said to have founded a priory, which he amply endowed, and made it a cell to the abbey of Lonley in Normandy; but Camden tells us this is a mistake. However, it has two fairs, on May 2, and September 12, for cattle and sheep.

Eight miles west-north-west of Stogursy is WATCHET, which is situated fifteen miles from Bridgewater, and one hundred and fifty-three from London, and is an ancient little sea-port town, on the coast of Bristol channel. This town suffered greatly by the Danes in the years 886, and 997. The late Sir William Wyndham built the pier of the harbour, but there are only about seven or eight vessels belonging to it, which trade in coals, or serve as coasters. They carry the ashes of seaweed to supply the glass-houses of Bristol, and great quantities of it are burnt for that purpose. They also carry a great deal of alabaster, which here falls from the cliffs by the wash of the sea, to that city. The inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood



*The North East View of Dunster Castle, in the County of Somerset.*



neighbourhood likewise burn vast heaps of pebble-stones, which are found upon the coast, for manuring the land, but chiefly to serve as a cement for building, no cement being more durable than this, in mason work, that is to lie under water, where it will become as hard as marble. Here is a market on Saturdays, and a fair on the 25th of August, for cattle, &c.

About three miles to the westward of Watchet is OLD CLEVE, in the neighbourhood of which grows the sea-liverwort, commonly called laver by the inhabitants. At low water people come hither to gather it, and having afterwards cleaned and pickled it, they send it to many distant places. It has a pleasant taste, and is a good antiscorbutic.

From Watchet a road extends eight miles west to DUNSTER, which is seated on a small river, almost close to the sea side. Its situation is low, though it is encompassed with hills, except towards the sea. Here is a castle, which was given by William the Conqueror to William de Mohun, in whose family it continued till Sir John de Mohun, one of the first knights of the garter, having no male issue, conveyed it to trustees, for the use of his wife, who, after his discease, sold it, in the reign of king Edward the Third, to the lady Elizabeth Lutterell, daughter of Hugh Courtney, earl of Devonshire, and widow of Sir Andrew Lutterell, knight. Her son, Sir Henry Lutterell, who was lieutenant of Harfleur, and steward of the household to Henry the Fifth's queen, added several buildings now standing, and left the castle and honour to his posterity, by whom it is still possessed. It stands on the side of a hill, and is a beautiful structure, though built after the ancient manner; and of this edifice we have given an engraved view. This town had  
also



also formerly an abbey of Benedictine monks, founded by William de Mohun, and dedicated to St. George ; but he annexed it as a cell to the abbey of St. Peter at Bath. About the time of the suppression, it consisted of only three monks, and its revenues amounted to 37 l. 4 s. 8 d. per annum. The church of this town, which was built in the reign of Henry the Seventh, is a large handsome structure, in the form of a cathedral, with a fine tower, and part of the ancient abbey is still standing near it. Dunster has a manufacture of kerseys. Its market is on Fridays, and it has a fair on Whitfun-Monday, for pedlars goods.

From hence a road extends about three miles north-west to MINEHEAD, or MINHEAD, an ancient borough, which has a harbour in Bristol channel, much frequented by passengers to and from Ireland, and is at the distance of one hundred and sixty-seven miles west of London. It was formerly governed by a portrieve, but at present is under two constables, annually chosen at the court-leet held by the lord of the manor. The members of parliament are chosen by a majority of house-keepers, or such as boil the pot within the borough, which consist of about five hundred houses, and two thousand inhabitants. It has a fine quay, and the largest ships may enter the harbour, and ride there in safety. The town is well built, and carries on a considerable trade with Ireland in wool ; and with South-Wales in coals. Three or four thousand barrels of herrings are annually caught here, cured, and sent to the Mediterranean. Here are also several considerable merchants, who trade to Virginia and the West-Indies. The market is on Wednesdays, and there is here a fair on the Wednesday in Whitfun-week, for pedlars goods.

## S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 167

Five miles west of Minehead is **PORLOCK**, which is seated near the mouth of a small river that forms a harbour in the Severn sea. Here Harold landed from Ireland in the year 1052, when he slew great numbers of people that opposed him, and carried off a considerable booty. The town has a market on Thursdays, and three fairs, held on the Thursday before the 12th of May, on the Thursday before the 9th of October, and on the Thursday before the 12th of November, for cattle.

Two miles south-east of Porlock, and two miles south of Minehead, is **WOOTTON-COURTNEY**, a village that has a fair on the 19th of September, for cattle.

Eight miles farther to the south is **KING'S BRUMPTON**, a village which has two fairs, held on the Wednesday before Holy-Thursday, and the Thursday sevensnight after the 10th of October, for cattle.

Three miles to the south by west of King's Brumpton is **DULVERTON**, which is seated on a branch of the river Ex, one hundred and seventy miles west by south of London. It is a pretty neat town, and has a good stone bridge of five arches over the river, and good accommodations for travellers. Near the town are lead mines. It has a market on Saturdays, and two fairs, held on the 10th of July, and the 8th of November, for cattle.

Eleven miles east of Dulverton is **WIVELSCOMB**, a town of no great note, one hundred and fifty-three miles west by south of London. Some years ago an urn was found here full of Roman coins. This town has an hospital, endowed by Sir John Coventry, for twelve poor people. It has a market on Tuesdays, and two fairs, held on the 12th of May, and the 25th of September, for cattle.

Twelve

Twelve miles to the west by south of Wivelscomb is TAUNTON, which is delightfully seated on the river Thone, in the road from Bristol to Exeter, forty-seven miles south-west of Bristol, thirty-one north-east of Exeter, and 147 west by south of London. It is a populous borough, thought to be one of the largest in the kingdom. Ina, king of the West-Saxons, built a castle here, which was demolished by his wife; but afterwards it was rebuilt by one of the bishops of Winchester, to the prelates of which see this town and deanery belonged, even before the conquest. This castle was a building of great extent, its hall, with the outward gate and porter's lodge, are still standing; and in the hall, which is very large, are generally held the assizes for the county. At the entrance into the court is the exchequer, where the bishop's clerk keeps his office, and a court is held every Saturday, for the bishop's tenants. This castle was garrisoned by the parliament, in the civil war; when it being besieged by Goring, lord Fairfax marched to relieve it, on which Goring raised the siege, and in a few days after was defeated by Fairfax at Langport, who killed many of his men, took one thousand two hundred horses, and one thousand four hundred prisoners. This victory was followed by the taking of Bridgewater, Bath, Sherburn, and Bristol. King Charles the Second, in the year 1662, caused its walls to be demolished, and took away the charter from the town, on account of the inhabitants having adhered to the parliament, in the reign of his father; and they were seventeen years without one, till the same prince granted them a new charter, by which the corporation now consists of a mayor, a recorder, a justice of the peace, two aldermen,

aldermen, twenty-four capital burgesſes, a town-clerk, two conſtables, two portreeves, and two ſerjeants at mace. Beſides theſe magiſtrates, there are ſix gentlemen, who are juſtices of the peace at large, and may act within the borough. The mayor and aldermen are annually choſen out of the twenty-four burgesſes; and the portreeves have the benefits of the ſtandings in the market, which they let for forty or fifty pounds a year. It is remarkable, that the mayor's officers have no power to arreſt, and that there is no priſon here, except a Bridewell for vagrants, debtors and criminals being ſent to the county jail at Ilcheſter. Indeed, tho' this is one of the moſt flouriſhing towns in the county, it is the meaneſt corporation; for they have neither lands, houſes, or joint ſtock of money. The members to ſerve in parliament are elected by the pot walloners, that is, all who boil the pot. In conſequence of this privilege, the inmates or lodgers, a little before the time of the election, have each a fire made in the ſtreet, at which they publickly dreſs their victuals, leſt their votes ſhould be called in queſtion. The number of the inhabitants are computed at twenty thouſand, and 1100 looms have been employed at a time, in weaving ſerges, duroys, ſagathees and ſhalloons; and it is ſaid, that children of five years of age gain a great part of their livelihood in theſe manufactures.

Many of the ſtreets of this town are ſpacious and handſome; and here are two pariſh churches, one of which, that is, St. Mary Magdalen's, is a ſpacious edifice, with a lofty tower and ſtately pinnacles, adorned with carved work. Here are alſo ſeveral meeting-houſes of proteſtant diſſenters, a well endowed grammar ſchool, and an hoſpital founded by Robert Gray, Eſq; a native of this



place, who went a poor boy to London, where he acquired great wealth : it is endowed for six men and ten women, who have each two shillings a week, and are accommodated with a chapel for daily prayers. Here is likewise an alms-house, founded by Mr. Huish, for thirteen decayed tradesmen, who have each half a crown a week, and a gown every three years, and are also provided with a chapel. Mrs. Dorothy Henley erected another alms-house in this place, which is inhabited by twenty men and women, but it has no endowment. Among the other public buildings is the market-house, over which is a town-hall ; here is also a fine bridge of six arches erected over the Thone, and kept in repair at the expence of the county. By an act of parliament, passed in the reign of king William the Third, this river was made navigable by barges, from Taunton to Bridgewater. Taunton has two markets, kept on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and two fairs, which are held on the 17th of June, for bullocks and horses ; and on the 7th of July, which continues three days ; the first day is for bullocks and horses, and the other two for confectionary.

It ought not to be omitted, that this town suffered greatly by the cruelty of major general Kirk, immediately after the duke of Monmouth's defeat, in the year 1685, who being sent hither, caused nineteen persons, by his own authority, without any trial or process, and without suffering their wives or children to speak with them, to be hanged, with pipes playing, drums beating, and trumpets sounding. The same inhuman monster, having invited his officers to dinner, ordered thirty persons, condemned here by Jefferies, to be hanged while they were at table ; namely, ten in a health to the king, ten while the

the health went round to the queen, and ten with the health passed to Jefferies.

At Taunton was anciently a priory of Black canons, erected by William Gifford, bishop of Winchester, in the time of Henry the First, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It had afterwards many considerable benefactors, and at the dissolution, its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 286 l. a year; but, according to Speed, to 438 l. Here was also a house of White Carmelite friars, founded by Walter de Meryet; and likewise an ancient leper house, the advowson and patronage of which was granted by Thomas Lambrizt, about the year 1280, to the abbot and convent of Glastonbury.

Henry Grove, a learned divine and elegant writer in the beginning of the eighteenth century, was born January the 4th, 1683, at Taunton, and educated at the dissenting academy of that place, where he went through a regular course of philosophy and divinity. Having finished his studies at the academy, he removed to London, where he continued about two years; and then returning to the country, he commenced preacher at the age of twenty-two. About a twelvemonth after he became tutor of the academy, where he had been educated; and this, with the dissenting meeting at Fulwood near Taunton, were the only preferments he ever obtained. He might have risen to much higher dignities, could he have been persuaded to conform to the established church; but as this was inconsistent with his principles, he could never be prevailed on to comply with that condition. His abilities, however, which were really great, and the sweetness of his temper, which was irresistibly engaging, procured him the friendship of some of the first persons of the age, particularly of Dr. Watts, Dr. Clarke, and the cele-

brated Mrs. Rowe. At length, after having, for upwards of thirty years, superintended the education of youth, with equal honour to himself, and advantage to the public, he was carried off by a fever, on the 27th of February, 1738. Of his works, which are numerous, and greatly admired, some were published in his life-time, and others after his death. The principal are, An Essay on the Immortality of the Soul; A Discourse on the Proofs from Reason of its Immortality; An Essay to demonstrate the Being and Perfections of God; and a large collection of sermons and other tracts. He was likewise the author of four papers in the Spectator, viz. No. 588, 601, 626, and 635.

BROMFIELD is a village five miles north of Taunton, and has a fair on the 3d of November, for cattle, hats, and all sorts of pewter.

BUCKLAND ST. MARY, a village seven miles south by east of Taunton, has a fair held on the 18th and 19th of September; the first day for horses, and the second for bullocks.

BAGBOROUGH, commonly called WEST BAGBOROUGH, is eight miles north-west of Taunton, and has a fair on the 12th of May, for all sorts of cattle.

WELLINGTON is situated seven miles south-west of Taunton, and has a large church, with an hospital for six poor men, and as many women. The inhabitants carry on a manufacture of serges, druggets, and other woollen stuffs, and have also a considerable pottery. This town has a market on Thursdays, and two fairs, held on the Thursday before Easter, and on Holy Thursday, for cattle.

MILVERTON is four miles north by west of Wellington, and situated on the road between Taunton to Wivelscomb, but is only of note for giving name to the hundred in which it lies, and  
for

## S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 173

for having three fairs, held on the Tuesday in Easter week, the 25th of July, and the 10th of October, for cattle.

Two miles east of Taunton is RUSTON, or RUISHTON, which has a fair on Whitsun-Monday, for bullocks and toys.

From Taunton a road extends eleven miles south-east to CHARD, which is seated in the south bounds of the county, and formerly sent members to parliament, it being made a free borough in the reign of Henry the Third, but this privilege it has since lost. The assizes were likewise formerly held here. There are several streams running through it, and the town chiefly consists of four streets, terminating in the market-place. Here are two alms-houses, and a small woollen manufactory, with several fulling-mills in its neighbourhood. The market is held on Mondays, and it has three fairs, namely, on the 3d of May, the 5th of August, and the 2d of November, for all sorts of cattle and pedlars goods.

Four miles north of Chard is ILMINSTER, or ILMISTER, a village that has a fair on the last Wednesday in August, for horses, bullocks, sheep, pigs and cheese.

Four miles north by west of Chard is ASHILL, a village which has two fairs, held on Easter-Wednesday, and the first Wednesday after the 8th of September, for all sorts of cattle, and pedlars goods.

Four miles west of Chard is COMB ST. NICHOLAS, which has a fair on the 16th of December, for horses, bullocks and sheep.

Seven miles east by south of Chard is CROOK-HORN, or CREWKERN, which is seated by the river Parret, on the confines of Dorsetshire, a hundred and thirty-three miles west by south of London, and is a thoroughfare town in the road



from London to the Land's-End. It is about three furlongs in length, and has a charity-school, with a considerable market on Saturdays, and a fair on the 4th of September, for horses, bullocks, linen-drapery, cheese and toys.

At WINDWHISTLE, a parish in a high situation, about four miles from Crewkern, was a constant spring of water, much used by the inhabitants, which was never, in the memory of man, known to fail, in the driest summer, till the very day the dreadful earthquake happened at Lisbon, when it suddenly sunk down, and the surface round it, many feet in the earth like a well, and is said to have been dry ever since.

Four miles north of this town is SOUTH PETHERTON, which is a corruption of its original name Pedred's town, a name which it derived from its situation on the bank of the river Pedred, now called the Parret; and the epithet South was added to it, to distinguish it from North Petherton, which is seated on the bank of the Pedred, about sixteen miles north-west of this place. In ancient times it was famous for the palace of Ina, king of the West-Saxons, but now has nothing worthy of notice, except its having a market on Thursdays, and a fair on the 5th of July, for cattle, lambs, &c.

Three miles north of South Petherton is MARTOC, which gives its name to the hundred, and in Camden's time was a market town, but the market has been long discontinued. It has, however, a fair on the 21st of August, for hogs and pedlars goods.

Three miles south-west of Martoc is MONTACUTE, where, according to Leland, the earl of Moreton and Cornwall, brother, by the mother's side, to William the Conqueror, built a castle on the top of a hill, and a priory of Cluniac monks  
at

at the bottom. The castle has been many years destroyed, and the stones carried away to rebuild the religious house; however, there was afterwards a chapel erected on the very top of the hill, dedicated to St. Michael, the roof of which was of stone curiously wrought. The priory was endowed by the above earl, and received several other benefactions; whence its revenues were valued at the dissolution at 456 l. a year by Dugdale; and at 524 l. by Speed. The remains of this structure are kept in repair, and make a very agreeable country seat; for though it is not a regular building, it is very convenient and handsome. The village of Montacute has a fair, on the 6th of May, for leather, cattle and sheep.

From South Petherton a road leads eight miles north-east to ILCHESTER, or IVELCHESTER, a town of great antiquity, it being a station of the Romans, seated on the south side of the river Ivel, and is generally allowed to be the Ischalis of Antoninus. It had a castle, now in ruins, and was originally encompassed with a double wall and ditch, the traces of which are visible quite round. The ancient town was an oblong square, three hundred paces in length, and two hundred in breadth, standing conformable to the fosse-way, which passes through the town, exactly from the north-east to the south-west. The north-east side of the town lay next the river, where some foundations of the wall may be seen. The ditch on the north-west side is filled up, and become a road, called Yard-lane, from its passing behind the yards and gardens. A vast number of coins have been found here, which have been distributed among the curious; there are also foundations of walls and old houses; some of which run across the present streets. The ditch, when perfect, admitted the water of the river all round

the town. The fosse-way retains its name, and runs through the principal street; and the pavement of the original ford across the river, may be seen on the west side the bridge, formed of great flag-stones. Upon the bridge is an old chapel, called Little St. Mary's; and at the foot of the bridge, within the town, is another called White-chapel; both which are now converted into dwelling-houses. Here was an hospital for poor travellers, founded before the year 1220, by William Dacus, and dedicated to the Trinity. It is thought to have been changed into a house of religious women, under the government of a prioress, in the reign of king Edward the Second; but some time before the general dissolution, it was only a free chapel. Here was also a house of friars preachers, founded before the eleventh year of king Edward the First.

The inhabitants say, that there have been here sixteen parish churches, and indeed foundations are discovered all over the town, and on the west side of it have been dug up several stone coffins. It is at present governed by two bailiffs and twelve burgessees, who are lords of the manor. The assizes for the county were fixed in the reign of Edward the Third, but they have long since been alternately held at Wells, Taunton, and Bridgewater; but the knights of the shire are still chosen here; the county courts are also held in this place, and here is a jail for debtors and malefactors. It has only one parish church, and some meeting-houses; and a place called King's Moor, in the neighbourhood, is famous for horse-races. It has a market on Wednesdays, and two fairs, held on the 2d of July, and the 2d of August, for all sorts of cattle. This town gives the title of earl to the noble family of Fox, and sends two members to parliament.

Roger

Roger Bacon, an English Franciscan friar of the thirteenth century, was born in 1214, near Ilchester, and educated first at the university of Oxford, and afterwards at that of Paris; in both which seminaries he made such a prodigious progress in his studies, and acquired such a profound skill in all branches of learning, that he was usually distinguished by the title of *Doctor Merabilis*. His great knowlege, however, exposed him, with the ignorant vulgar, to the imputation of magic, from which he successively vindicated himself in his writings; though it must be confessed, at the same time, that he was somewhat addicted to the study of judicial astrology. He seems to have been acquainted with many important discoveries, which are generally considered as more modern inventions; particularly the composition of gun-powder, and the construction of the telescope. He pointed out the error in the kalendar, with regard to the quantity of the solar year, which had been continually encreasing since the time of Julius Cæsar; and he proposed a plan for the correction of this error, to Pope Clement the Fourth, who was himself a man of some learning; and though this proposal did not then take effect, it yet afterwards gave occasion to that reformation in the kalendar, which produced the distinction between the old stile and the new. He made, with his own hands, a great number of burning-glasses; and, in his treatise on Perspective, he discourses very largely of the reflection and refraction of light, and describes the *Camera Obscura*, and all sorts of glasses, which either magnify or diminish objects. His skill in mechanics was so great, that, in the opinion of the learned and judicious Dr. Friend, a greater genius in that science had not arisen, since the days of Archimedes. Nor was it only with the ignorant vulgar that he in-



curring the imputation of magic. He seems likewise to have lain under the same suspicion, at least the suspicion of heresy, with his superiors. For, in 1278, under the pontificate of Nicholas the Third, he was thrown into prison at Paris, where he continued several years; and, upon the advancement of Jerom de Esculo, general of the Franciscans, to the Papal throne, he brought his cause before that pontiff; but in this he met with such bad success, that he was only subjected to a more severe confinement. At length, however, by the interest of some noblemen, he recovered his liberty; and returning to England, ended his days at Oxford, in 1292, or, according to others, in 1294. His body was interred in the church of the Franciscans. Dr. Jebb, who wrote his life, has given us a catalogue of all his works, in the several arts and sciences. His *Opus Majus* is his most considerable performance. The ridiculous story of his making a *brazen head*, which could speak and answer questions, is well known.

Elizabeth Rowe, a lady of distinguished parts, as well as piety, was the daughter of Mr. Walter Singer, a dissenting minister of a good family, and was born at Ilchester, on September the 11th, 1674. Being descended from parents of the most serious disposition, she received the first impressions of religion probably as soon as she was capable of them. "My infant hands," says she, in one of her pious addresses to God, "were early lifted  
"up to thee, and I soon learned to know and  
"acknowledge the God of my fathers." Possessed, at once, of an elegant taste, and a sublime genius, she was strongly attached to all the fine arts of music, painting and poetry; but the last of these was her favourite employment, and her distinguishing excellence. So strong was her propensity to this noble art, that she began to write  
verses

verses at twelve years, which was almost as soon as she could write at all. Even her prose has all the harmony and cadence of numbers. A collection of her poems was published in 1696, at the desire of some friends. Her paraphrase on the thirty-eighth chapter of Job was written at the request of bishop Ken. She had no other tutor for the French and Italian languages, than the honourable Mr. Thynne, son to the lord viscount Weymouth, who willingly took that task upon himself, and found in his fair pupil so quick an apprehension, and so retentive a memory, that she was able, in a few months, to read Tasso's Jerusalem. Such shining merit, joined to the charms of her person and conversation, could not fail to procure her many admirers. Among others, it is said, the celebrated Matt. Prior would have been glad to have shared the pleasures and cares of life with her. But Mr. Thomas Rowe (whose history we have given in the article of Middlesex) was the happy person reserved by heaven to obtain and to enjoy so inestimable a treasure. He married her in 1710; and they lived together, for the space of five years, in all the raptures of conjugal endearment. His death, which happened in 1715, when he had just turned the twenty-eighth year of his age, filled her, as might be expected, with the most inexpressible sorrow. She wrote a beautiful elegy on the occasion; and continued, to the last moments of her life, to entertain the highest veneration for his memory, and a particular regard and esteem for all his relations. From this time forward she devoted herself solely to privacy and retirement; and, except on a very few occasions, when, in order to oblige her friends, she was prevailed on to visit them at London, or their country-seats, she resided at Frome in this county, in the neighbourhood of

which the greatest part of her estate lay. Here it was that she composed her most celebrated works, Friendship in death, and her Letters Moral and Entertaining. The evening of her life was passed with that serenity, which had distinguished the preceding part of it; and she left the world, as she had always wished, in her beloved retirement. On the 19th of February, 1737, at about ten in the evening, she was seized with a kind of apoplexy; and about two o'clock next morning, she expired gently, without struggle or convulsion, in the sixty-third year of her age. In her cabinet were found letters directed to the countess of Hertford, the earl of Orkney, and to several other persons of distinction, with whom she had long lived in the greatest intimacy, and to whom she had ordered those letters to be delivered immediately after her decease.

Six miles south by east of Ilchester is YEOVIL, so called from the corruption of its original name Ivel, which it obtained from its being seated on a river of that name, which falls into the Parret. It is seated on the edge of the county on the borders of Dorsetshire, in the road between London and the Lands-end, at the distance of one hundred and twenty-four miles west by south of London. It is a pretty large place, and contains about two thousand inhabitants, but the streets are narrow, and the houses, for the most part, mean; it has, however, a large church, with a ring of six bells, a town-hall, and a charity-school for thirty boys, who are taught and cloathed. It is governed by a portreeve and twelve burgessees, who hold a court of record every three weeks, and have lands let out upon leases. The principal manufacture of this town is gloves. It has a considerable market on Fridays, for corn, cheese, flax, linen, hemp, sail-cloth, and other commodities;



## S O M E R S E T S H I R E. 181

dities; and two fairs, held on the 28th of June, for horses, bullocks, sheep, lambs, hogs and wool; and on the 17th of November, for horses, bullocks, sheep and lambs.

Five miles to the east by north of Yeovil is **STOKE UNDER HAMPTON**, where was a college of Black monks, founded by one of the family of Goumey, but when suppressed, and of what value, we are not told.

Eight miles to the east of Yeovil is **MILBORN-PORT**, a borough town, one hundred and sixteen miles west by south of London. It is governed by nine capital bailiffs, who chuse two under bailiffs, who make the returns of the members that represent the town in parliament. Besides the bailiffs, there are seven commonalty stewards, who are trustees of the profits of the lands that have been given to the poor of this town; and of these, two are annually chosen for the particular distribution of those profits, and for the custody of the common seal of the borough. Here are likewise two constables, invested with considerable power. This town has a church, but the houses are scattered in a very irregular manner. It has two fairs, held on the 5th of June, and the 28th of October, for a few cattle and toys.

At **CARTON**, a village about three miles north-west of Milborn-port, four men being digging in a common field, in the year 1723, in order to make an enclosure, one of them struck his spade upon a Roman urn, in which were about two quarts of Roman coins, most of them fair and plain, and yet none of them were later than the year 286.

Three miles to the east by north of Carton is **SOUTH-CADBURY**, and two miles farther to the north is **NORTH-CADBURY**, where was a college founded



founded by William lord Botreaux, and dedicated to St. Michael. His mother had, before, in the reign of Henry the Fifth, founded a chantry in the parish church at Cadbury, for five priests, of which one was to be rector. To these her son added three priests, ordering that each should have an annual salary of ten marks, till a college should be built. This was afterwards finished, and in it was placed a rector, seven chaplains, and four clerks. The church of North-Cadbury is a small neat building. On the opposite hills to the southward, human bodies have been dug up.

In this parish is CAMALET, a noble fortification of the Romans, called by the vulgar Cadbury-castle. It is seated on the north side of a ridge of hills, which, for the most part, consist of solid rock, and is encompassed by three or four ditches, and in some places more, and the area within, is at least twenty acres. This was the Colomeae of the Romans. The figure is somewhat square, but conforms to the shape of the hill; and there is a high angle of ground within, encompassed with a ditch, where the country people say, was king Arthur's palace; but Dr. Stukeley is of opinion, that it was the Praetorium of the Romans, though king Arthur might afterwards live there. The whole has been plowed up, and much stone taken from the surface, which has greatly altered its appearance; however, the rampart is large and high, and chiefly consists of great stones covered with earth. It has only one entrance, which is from the east, and it is not unlikely, that buildings were erected here, in the latter British times, on account of its great strength, and its forming, as it were, a perfect watch-tower, from which there is a prospect of the country all round, to an incredible distance. It affords a fine view of woods, and small but  
steep

## SOMERSETSHIRE. 183

steep hills, that shew their naked heads as far as Mendip-hills, and Black-down in Devonshire. Great plenty of Roman coins have been found here, and all round the country, among which is a vast number of Antoninus and Faustina.

Six miles to the east of North-Cadbury is WINCAUNTON, which is situated on the east side of the county, on the declivity of a hill. The greatest part of this town was destroyed by fire in April, 1747. It has a considerable market on Wednesdays, for corn, cheese and cattle, but no fairs. Some years ago an urn was discovered here full of Roman coins.

PEN is a village four miles east-north-east of Wincaunton, and is the place where the West-Saxons gave the Britons such a defeat, that they were never afterwards able to make head against them. Many ages after, Edmund Ironside obtained a memorable victory over the Danes, in the same place, while he was in pursuit of Canute, who had possessed himself of the greatest part of the kingdom.

At MINCHIN BUCKLAND, a village somewhere in this county, William de Erlegh, in the reign of king Henry the Second, founded a house of regular canons, who having been guilty of several unjustifiable actions, were suppressed and removed to other houses. King Henry the Second, in the year 1180, granted all their lands to the knights Hospitallers, upon condition of their placing here all the sisters of their order, who before lived in several of their preceptories. This seems to have been complied with, and hence this house became a priory of nuns of the order of St. Augustine. It was dedicated to St. John Baptist, and at the suppression had a revenue valued at 223 l. 11 s. 4 d. a year.

Besides

Besides the eminent persons already mentioned under the towns where they were born, this county has produced the following:

Sir James Dyer, an eminent lawyer, a worthy patriot, and chief justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of queen Elizabeth, was born, about the year 1511, at Roundhill in this county, and educated at Broadgate-hall, in the university of Oxford. In 1552 he was called to the degree of a serjeant at law, and was likewise chosen speaker of the House of Commons. He afterwards sat as a puisne judge, first in the court of Common-Pleas, then in that of the King's-Bench; and immediately after the accession of queen Elizabeth to the throne, he was appointed chief justice upon the former of these benches. This high office he discharged, for the space of twenty-four years, with equal ability and integrity; and dying, March the 24th, 1581, was interred in the church of Stowton in Huntingdonshire. His *Reports* are justly held in the greatest estimation.

Samuel Daniel, poet and historian in the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century, was born in 1562, near Taunton, and educated at Magdalen-hall in Oxford. Upon the death of the famous Spencer he became poet-laureat to queen Elizabeth; and in the reign of king James the First, was appointed gentleman extraordinary, and one of the grooms of the privy-chamber to the queen consort. The greatest part of his life he spent in a house which he rented in Old-street, London; and in his old age retired to a farm, which he had purchased at Beckington, near Phillips-Norton in this county, where he died in 1619. His poetical works were published in 1718, in two volumes, twelves. His history of England reaches from the beginning of the reign

reign of William the Conqueror to the end of that of Edward the Third.

Gilbert Sheldon, archbishop of Canterbury, in the seventeenth century, was the son of Roger Sheldon, menial servant to the earl of Shrewsbury; and was born July the 19th, 1598, at Stanton in this county. At the age of fifteen he was admitted into Trinity college in Oxford, where he took the degrees of bachelor and master of arts; and in 1622 was elected a fellow of All-Souls college in the same university. Having entered into orders, he first became chaplain to the lord-keeper Coventry, then prebendary of Gloucester, vicar of Hackney near London, rector of Ickford in Buckinghamshire, rector of Newington in Oxfordshire, and warden of All-Souls college. During the civil wars he adhered to his majesty, for whom he was a remarkable sufferer. After the restoration of king Charles the Second, he was promoted to the see of London; and upon the death of archbishop Juxon, was translated to the archbishopric of Canterbury. In these high stations he behaved with equal piety and prudence, and distinguished himself, in a particular manner, by his works of public charity and munificence. He spent very large sums in repairing his episcopal and archiepiscopal houses, and erected, at his sole expence, the superb and magnificent theatre at Oxford. At length, having filled, with great honour and reputation, the see of Canterbury for above fourteen years, he died at Lambeth, November the 9th, 1677, and was interred in the church of Croydon in Surry. He never published any thing except one sermon preached before the king.

Ralph Cudworth, a very learned and rational divine of the seventeenth century, was the son of

Dr.



Dr. Cudworth, rector of Aller in Somersetshire, and born at that place, in the year 1617. He had his education at Emanuel college, Cambridge, where he was admitted a pensioner so early as the thirteenth year of his age, and where he afterwards became so eminent a tutor, that he had no less than eight and twenty pupils under his care at one time; a thing never before known in that university. Having taken his degrees in arts and divinity, he became successively rector of North-Cadbury in Somersetshire, master of Clare-hall, regius professor of Hebrew, master of Christ's college, Cambridge, and prebendary of Gloucester. In 1657, he was one of the persons nominated by the committee of parliament, to be consulted about the English translation of the Bible. In the reign of king Charles the Second, he opposed, with great vigour, the torrent of irreligion and licentiousness, which then overran the kingdom; and it was with this view that he wrote his celebrated work, entitled, *The true Intellectual System of the Universe*. He likewise wrote a book, called *Deus Justificatus*; or, *the Goodness of God vindicated against the Assertors of absolute and unconditionate Reprobation*. He died at Cambridge, June 26, 1688, and was buried in Christ's college in that university. The earl of Shaftsbury styles him an excellent and learned divine, of the highest authority at home, and fame abroad.

William Musgrave, a learned physician and antiquary, was born about the year 1657, at Charlton-Musgrave in this county, and educated at New college in Oxford. Having taken the degree of bachelor of laws, he entered upon the physic line; and soon become so famous for his skill in natural history, that he was chosen secretary to the Royal Society, in which quality he published

## SOMERSETSHIRE. 187

published the Philosophical Transactions from No. 167 to 178 inclusive. He was afterwards elected a fellow of the college of physicians; and settling in the city of Exeter, he followed his profession to the day of his death, which happened December the 23d, 1721. Besides a great number of papers in the Philosophical Transactions, he wrote two Dissertations on the Gout, an Essay on the Roman Legions, and a book entitled, *Belgium Britannicum*, giving an account of that part of Great-Britain anciently inhabited by the Belgae.

STAF-



## STAFFORDSHIRE.

**T**HIS county derived its name from Stafford. It is bounded on the north-west by Cheshire; on the north-east by Derbyshire; on the south-east and south by Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Worcestershire; and on the west by Shropshire; it extending forty miles from north to south, twenty-six from east to west, and one hundred and forty-one in circumference. Stafford, which is nearly in the middle of the county, is one hundred and thirty-five miles north-west of London.

This county contained about a third part of the country, anciently inhabited by the Cornavii; and the Watling-street, and Ikenald-street, two of the four great Roman military ways, passed thro' this county. The Watling-street, extending from Warwickshire, entered Staffordshire at Falesley-bridge, near Tamworth, and running westward, passed into Shropshire, at a small distance from Brewood. Ikenald-street enters the county at Streeton, near Tutbury, and running south-west, crosses Watling-street, about a mile south of Litchfield, then passes into Warwickshire, at the village of Hansworth, near Birmingham. Upon these ancient roads, there have been discovered in this county considerable remains of Roman antiquities.

The air of Staffordshire is, in general, pure and healthy; but in some parts it is very sharp  
and

and cold, particularly on the mountains to the north-west of Stone.

The principal rivers of this county are the Trent, the Dove, the Penke, the Tame, the Sow, and the Charnet.

The Trent is generally supposed to derive its name from its proceeding from three springs, the principal of which rises about a mile south of Rustan James, near Leek, from whence it runs to the south as far as Bucknall, where it turns a little to the west to Trentham. Then it declines towards the south-east, passing by Rudgley, where it turns almost directly east, and passes as far as Wichnor, and receives the Tame. After this it turns north-east by Burton upon Trent, and about two miles beyond that town enters Derbyshire, after which, running north-east thro' the county of Derby, and across Nottinghamshire, it turns north, and washing the eastern side of the last mentioned county, at length passes thro' a part of Lincolnshire and falls into the Humber. This is esteemed the third river in England.

The Dove rises in Derbyshire, and entering the north part of this county, runs winding to the southward, separating through its whole extent this county from that of Derbyshire, and falls into the Trent, a little to the east of Tutbury, just at its leaving this county.

The Penke rises near Featherstone, and running north-west, passes by Brewood, then turning north by east, passes by Penkridge, and at length falls into the Sow at Stafford.

The Tame rises in the south part of the county, not far from Wolverhampton, and running south-east, passes into Warwickshire, where, directing its course northward, it re-enters Staffordshire to the south of Tamworth, and running  
near



near that town, continues a northerly course till it falls into the Trent, near the village of Wich-nor.

The Sow rises to the westward of Newcastle under Line, and running south-east, passes by Stafford, and then receiving the Penke, soon after falls into the Trent at Shutborough.

The Charnet has its source near the head of the Trent, and running south-west, falls into the Dove.

The rivers of this county are, indeed, so numerous, that they are said to amount to twenty-four in number, besides a multitude of rivulets and small brooks. Some of these, after heavy rains, overflow their banks, and lay the meadows under water; which, though inconvenient at first, renders them extremely fertile.

Besides the rivers, there are many meers or lakes in this county, particularly that of Aque-late, which is one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight yards in length, and six hundred and seventy-two in breadth. Out of this meer was taken, in September, 1763, an eel of a most remarkable size, it measuring four feet and a half in length, one foot in circumference, and weighed twelve pounds and a half. Ladford pool is said to comprehend about sixty acres. To these may be added those of Cockmeer, Eccleshal water, New pool, and several others. All which have either rivulets passing through them, or are fed with springs, and abound with plenty of fish; and being in perpetual motion, are as free from noxious exhalations as the rivers themselves.

Dr. Plot mentions several rocky subterraneous passages, which receive the waters that, in violent rains, pour from the hills. He also observes, that there is a spring at Park-hall in the parish of Caverswall, which, with a great noise, pours forth

to full a stream, that it turns a mill within less than a bow-shot from its source, and also a spring that runs plentifully from under a rock, on the west side of a small river called the Tene, that produces all the year round, except in July and August, small bones of different sizes, most of them like the bones of young sparrows and very young chickens.

In this county are likewise several salt springs, the most considerable of which are those at the brine pits in the parish of Weston, which doubtless acquire their saltiness from a mineral salt, through which the waters pass. These yield such a quantity of salt, that an officer is appointed to take care of the duties arising from it. This salt is as white and as good, as, perhaps, any in England. The pit from whence this brine was pumped, in Dr. Plot's time, was about nine yards deep and two square; and the pans in which it was boiled were made of iron, eight feet long and four feet broad. Besides these, there are other salt springs that rise out of the earth, in different parts of the county.

Staffordshire has only three mineral waters whose virtues are ascertained, one of which is near Codfall, a village twelve miles south-west of Stafford, which is a sulphureous spring, and the sulphur is mixed with salt, but not in a sufficient degree to restrain the volatility of the sulphur, so that in the winter against rain, it may be smelled twenty yards off. It will lather with soap; will not curdle milk, and with syrup of violets it will turn green; but neither galls, oak-leaves, nor a solution of sublimated tartar, will throw down the sulphur. However, spirit of urine will do it, and turn it of a faintish red. When leprosy was more frequent, this water was famous for curing them; but at present it is only used against  
scabs

scabs and the itch, and it operates both by stool and urine. They brew their beer with this water, and in Dr. Plot's time there was here a house, called the Brimstone ale-house, where no one that lived there, was troubled with diseases of the skin.

St. Erasmus's-well is in the ground belonging to the lord Chetwynd, near Ingestre, two miles from Stafford. The water is clear and of the colour of sack, but has no remarkable taste, nor smell. A gallon of this water will yield three hundred grains of sediment, whereof two hundred and seventy-two are salt. We are not told what diseases it is used for, nor indeed that it is used at all.

At Willoughbridge, six miles north-east of Drayton in Shropshire, is a well, whose water is as clear as crystal; but it renders the sides of the glasses, after they have been used awhile, a little oily, and of a bright yellow colour. If a few drops of the solution of sublimate be let fall into this water, it presently becomes of a deep sack-colour, which seems to show that it has somewhat of a lixivial salt. It will lather with soap, but will not curdle with milk, nor change colour with syrup of violets. Contrary to most other waters, it leaves nothing behind it, after the evaporation of several gallons. Its oil or sulphur is so very volatile, that when distilled in a glass body and head, the oil of sulphur comes over the helm, upon the first heat, and is always in the receiver before the least drop of water appears. There is such plenty of this water, that at least sixty springs have been counted, that send forth plentiful streams. Dr. Plot informs us, that these waters have performed many wonderful cures, which he attributes to its balsamick virtue, and its great subtilty and volatility; and he farther adds, if we were to judge of the waters, from the many at-  
tested

tested cures, it bids as fair for an universal medicine, as any thing in the world.

This county is divided into moorlands and woodlands. The moorlands are contained between the rivers Trent and Dove, and extend from the north point of the county to Draycot in the south, and yields copper, lead, rance-marble, and mill-stone. The woodlands are the most southerly and level part of the county, and produce salt, black marble, and alabaster, but not such quantities of timber as formerly.

We shall now take a view of the different soils of this county, and of its minerals and fossils; after which we shall consider its fertility, with its vegetable and animal productions.

Some parts of this county are remarkable for turf, which, in the spring, they cut in the moorlands, with an instrument, called a push-plough; this is a kind of spade, at the upper end of which is a cross piece of wood, after the manner of a crutch, to which they fasten a pillar, and placing it to their thigh, thrust it forwards, and by this means raise large pieces of turf, which they turn up, and place in piles ten or twelve feet high. The turf is, in some places, used for fuel, and in others the pile is set on fire; in which case it being supplied with fresh turf, will burn for three weeks together, and the ashes are used as an excellent manure. Under the uppermost turf, in the moory and boggy grounds, they also dig peat, which, when dried, likewise serves for firing; it chiefly consisting of roots, moss, and the like.

This county produces four or five sorts of marle, as a red, fat, and an earthy kind, with blue veins, which generally lies about eighteen inches under the surface. In the northerly parts, they have a stiff, bluish sort of marle, with red veins, and another sort mixed with blue and red.



Besides these, there is a hard, stony sort of marle, called in some places, flat, and in others, dice-marle: this must be dug up with a pix-axe and crow, and is of different colours, as white, red, and blue. It is got out of the ground in very hard lumps, which, by the help of the sun, frost, and rain dissolve on the ground like lime.

Tobacco-pipe clay is found all over the county, and at Amblecot is a clay of a dark, bluish colour, of which are made the best pots for glass-houses of any in England; great quantities of it are therefore sent to different parts of the kingdom, and the goodness of this clay has caused glass-houses to be erected near the place where it is dug.

This county has likewise several sorts of potters clay, whence it is famous for its potteries, particularly at Burslem, near Newcastle under Line, where there are different kinds of clay all round the town, for making different sorts of vessels.

Among the earths that are used for colouring and painting, are yellow and red oker; a blue clay found at Darlaston, near Wednesbury; this they separate from the gravel, and form into oval cakes, which they sell to the glovers to make an ash colour. There is also black chalk found within the beds of grey marble, in Langley close, near Stanthop; and also a fine reddish earth under a rock near Himley-hall, which, when dry, is nearly as good as the red chalk brought from France.

There is a variety of pit coals in this county, differing from each other, though they have no distinct names, except the cannel coal, and the peacock coal. The former is the hardest, and of so close a texture, that it will take a tolerable polish, as may be seen in the choir of the cathedral church of Litchfield; which being mostly paved  
with

with cannel coal and alabaster, has the appearance of black and white marble. Cannel coal is also turned into ink pots, candlesticks and the like; and likewise cut into sals and standishes. The peacock-coal, which is dug at Hanley-green near Newcastle under Line, is much softer than the cannel, and does not exceed the common sorts in hardness. The blocks of these are divided into sensible plates of about a quarter of an inch in thickness, while the cannel has no visible joints. This has its name from its variety of colours, which glitter on the outside of the joints, and have some resemblance to those of the peacock's tail, or the colours in a glass prism. The common coal of this county burns away with a clear bright flame, into white ashes, without leaving such cinders behind them as Newcastle coals do.

The method of finding coal in places where it has not yet been discovered, is first, to consult the springs, if there are any near, to see whether they can find any coal-water, that is, an acid water, with a yellow sediment. Above ground they look for smut, which is a tender black earth; and when they find either of these, they are in hopes of meeting with coal; and have recourse to boring or sinking a pit. The first is most proper if it lies shallow, and is performed with a large iron scoop, to which several iron rods are progressively fastened, till it has penetrated to a considerable depth.

Lime-stone rocks are common in almost all parts of the county, and are not more useful for building, than for meliorating barren land. Some of this stone has so fine a grain, that it will bear a polish like marble, and tables have been actually made of it.

With respect to stones for building, and for making grind-stones and mill-stones, there are

great plenty, especially of the first sort. Of the stones for building, they are of different degrees of fineness; some of a reddish colour, and some a white, some again are of both these colours, and others streaked with black. About Litchfield, Newcastle, and Leek, they chiefly build with a reddish sort of stone. In a quarry between Ingstre and Salt, and also about Beech, there is a hard white stone, of a fine grit, that will work very well, and bear the weather, but it has here and there a cast of redness. Besides these, there are various other kinds of stone fit for building, in different parts of the county, and fire stones fit for the hearths of ovens, and for furnaces for melting iron. The stone of a quarry at Purton, serves for grind stones. There are other quarries of the same nature; but those which produce grindstones of the finest grit are at Bilston, and fit for fine edged tools, as knives, scissars and razors. Of the mill-stones, some are made out of large loose stones, and particularly, according to Dr. Plot, out of large round pebbles, found on Bradenheath, between Sheriff-Hales and Blymhill, where, he says, there are stones of this kind, of such a prodigious size, that three mill-stones for grinding wheat, have been cut out of one of them.

There are here, as we have already observed, quarries of alabaster, some of which is of so solid and firm a texture, as to be fit for the paving of churches; and of it are made tables, chimney-pieces, and grave-stones. The coarser kind is rendered, by burning, so soft and brittle, that, by threshing, they can reduce it to powder, and form it into a kind of mortar with which the floors, particularly of the upper rooms of houses, are formed, it being, when dry, as hard as stone, and exceeding solid and durable.

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This county also produces various kinds of marble, but the difficulty of carriage greatly confines its use. A species called rance-marble, consists of a white, hard, shining grit, streaked with red, and takes so good a polish, that it has been used for chimney-pieces, monuments, and the like. Of this marble, Yelpersly Tor, as well as most of the hills in its neighbourhood, seem to be formed. At Stanfop there is plenty of grey marble; and at Powke-hill, near Bentley-hill, is a black shining marble; but it is so hard, that it cannot be worked without great difficulty; however, when burnt and powdered, it makes very good emery.

With respect to the ores, those of this county are chiefly of a stony nature. Of the iron-stone are several kinds, which differ in goodness, and have names agreeable to the qualities of the metal. When they have obtained the ore, they burn or calcine it with small charcoal, wood, or pit-coal, in order to break the stones into small pieces, and fit it for the furnace, which is done in three days time. While this is doing they begin to heat their furnace, and having continued it for a week, throw the ore in baskets, into the furnace, with baskets of charcoal alternately; and by means of two very large pair of bellows behind the furnace, render the fire so intensely hot, that in three days time the metal begins to run, and in about a fortnight, they can run what is called a sow and pigs once in twelve hours, into a bed of sand, before the mouth of the furnace. The sow is always next to the furnace, and from it they draw upwards of twenty furrows for the pigs. The sow and pigs, when broken asunder, and cut into proper lengths, are brought to the forges, and wrought into bars, by hammers of a prodigious size, raised by the motion of a water-wheel.



Bars that are to be cut into rods, are carried to the flitting mills, where they are cut into short lengths, and being then heated red hot, they are brought to the rollers, which draw them out in lengths, and then put through the cutters, which are of different sizes, where they are slit to the sizes desired, and when cold, bound up for sale.

It is worthy of remark, that there is frequently found among the iron ore at Rushall, a sort of round or oval stones, of a blackish and reddish colour, that within resemble a honey-comb; and all of them contain a red or a whitish liquor, of a sweetish taste, which the workmen are fond of drinking. Dr. Plot supposes, that this is nothing else but the matter of the iron-ore, not yet coagulated into a metallic form.

Here are also copper and lead ores, but the latter only in small quantities; and we are even informed, that native silver has been found in a hard rock.

The crystals found in this county, are composed of two hexagonal pyramids, and a six-sided column, as all crystals generally are. They are sometimes stained with a violet colour, but are most commonly without. There is another sort of crystal, which grows in clusters out of the lime-stone rocks near Dudley-Castle; and though they seem to be set very confusedly; yet upon strict examination, they all appear to be of the same shape, that is, cut obliquely off at the top, and forming there twenty-six sides; besides which, there are twelve trapeziums, so joined by pairs at the broader ends, in the middle of each crystal, that the acute angles of one combination, meet with obtuse ones of the opposite pair.

Opake pebbles are met with on Satnel hill, and in Cankwood, of various colours, some of which are so finely mixed and variegated, that they are  
fit

fit for knife-handles, snuff-boxes, and other works performed by lapidaries. Some of these have bluish veins, and they will admit all of a fine polish, and indeed are at least equal, if they do not surpass the agate.

Under Yelperfly Tor are a sort of stones called crow-stones, some of which are entirely black, and others streaked with white, and will bear so fine a polish, that they have been set in rings, and then have been taken for black agate. There are also transparent pebbles on Coven-heath, that are extremely hard, and glitter almost as much as a diamond. Stones of the colour of amethysts, with a genuine lustre, have been found at Barrow hill in Penshet chace, where there are many transparent pebbles, resembling natural crystals, but much harder. The serenites, or moon-stone, is only found at Hartley-green and Slindon, where it is dug up in marle-pits. It is so called, from its reflecting the figure of the moon, as it were, in a glass; it will also do the same of the sun. At Slinden, this stone is of a cubico-rhomboidal form, all the pieces of it having six sides.

The asteria, or star stone, found here, exactly represents the figure of a star, as it is commonly painted, and all of them have five principal rays of equal length, shape, and make, proceeding from the center. These all differ in some respect from those described in Oxfordshire; for though they are found heaped one upon another in columns, they all seem to be fragments, and not entire bodies, some having three, some four, and some twelve joints, but every joint consisting of five angles, proceeds from the center. The angles of some of these are so very sharp, and their sides so deeply channelled, that they seem to represent the rowel of a spur.

In this county are found stones that resemble shells, with two valves, as cockles, scallops, and oysters in great plenty, some of which are adorned with lines, and others are plain; some are always single, and others have both shells joined together. There are other shells like large cockles, with both their valves joined, and a large streaked furrow between the beaks of the shells. There are also some that consist of a single shell, unlike any that have been hitherto found near the sea. The shell fish which comes nearest to it is the nautilus; the place of the head being in the utmost turn of the stone, and the tail in the center. Some that are pretty large, seem to have three or four obscure joints, cut in the large outer turn, at right angles, and the lesser, two cavities or orifices.

Some stones have been likewise found in the shape of vegetables. Of these there are some like reeds or rushes, joined together by a petresying juice; others are met with like moss, and are certainly nothing but petresfied moss, or rather the plant called horse-tail. One was found at the village of Stanfop, entirely resembling cup-moss, and perhaps it once was really so. There are also some stones resembling funguses, and others that have an imperfect resemblance to coral.

We shall now return to the surface of the earth, and shall next mention the rocks, as being nearly allied to the stones of which we have been treating. There are some of these that have no grass, and are as bare as a stone wall. One of this kind is on Wetley moor, and appears at a distance, like prodigious ruins of some vast structure. Dr. Plot is of opinion, that rocks like these grow, because he has seen some of them that include large pebbles; but as a more convincing proof of this, he observes, that at the place called

led Gollows-tree, by Newcastle under Line, was found, in a firm block of stone, dug out of a quarry there, the entire scull of a man, which that gentleman, with great probability supposes, belonged to a person who had been formerly executed, and buried under the gallows which formerly stood there, and that the rock was, at that time, sandy land, which afterwards hardened into stone. In the rock between Swithamley and Wharnford, there is a stupendous cleft, commonly called Lud-church, which is two hundred and eight yards long, and in some places fifty feet deep, and the sides of it are so steep, and hang over so much, that snow is sometimes observed there all the summer.

Near Wetton mill is a cave about thirty feet high, and forty-four yards to the farther end, supported by a natural rough pillar; and in the county there are several other caverns, of which we have no particular description.

Many of the mountains in this part of the kingdom, are of such a prodigious height, that in rainy weather, they are frequently seen above the clouds, particularly those of Narrowdale, where the inhabitants of that valley, are deprived of the sight of the sun for a quarter of a year in the winter season; and when that luminary begins to appear, which is not till about one o'clock, this they call Narrowdale-noon. But these mountains lie only on the skirts of the county, and the greatest part of Staffordshire, is as level as most of the other parts of England.

The arable and pasture land of this county is excellent. The warm lime-stone hills of the moorlands, produce a fine sweet grass, and large oxen; and as these succeed so well, it is no wonder that the rich meadows, upon the banks of the



rivers, are equally fertile; and more particularly the banks of the Trent and the Dove, which are thought by many, to be the best feeding land in England. These are the more fertile, on account of the land-floods, and their lying upon lime-stone: of these the hills are also composed, that produce rich pastures, from whence the greatest dairies are maintained, which supply the markets with vast quantities of butter and cheese.

The northern part of the county is not much inferior to the other for breeding of sheep, which are, indeed, but small, with coarse wool, and generally black noses, but their flesh is sweet. The farmers are now greatly improved in husbandry, and manure the land with marle, lime, and ashes, particularly with lime and ashes mixed, which they lay on heathy grounds, with such success, that they enable them to produce corn of all sorts; but the black moorish grounds of the moorlands can only be brought to bear barley and oats; they, however, sow both hemp and flax in small proportions, all over the county. The heathy, broomy, and land covered with firs, have for the most part a gravelly soil; for which reason, that in Cankwood, and most of the parks, is pleasant, and proper for hunting. For this reason also, the highways are generally good, except in the most northerly parts of the moorlands.

With respect to the uncommon plants growing wild in Staffordshire, it is necessary to observe, that the mountainous part of this county called the moorlands, produces the same plants as the Peak-country of Derbyshire, and the more depressed and level parts, the same with Warwickshire.

At a village called Worton in this county, about two miles distant from Newport in Shropshire, grows in plenty,

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The female or yellow-leaved fir-tree, *Abies*, Ger.

Whether they are native of this place, or anciently planted here, is some question. That they were natives Dr. Plot gathers not only from their disorderly natural situation, and excessive height, to which planted trees seldom arrive, but chiefly from the stumps of many trees, which he suspects to have been firs, found near them, in their natural positions, in the bottoms of mosses and pools (particularly of Shebben-pool) some of the bodies whereof are daily dug up at Laynton, and in the old Pewet-pool, in the same parish where these now grow.

The pear-like service, *Sorbus pyriformis*, D. Pitt. In the moorlands in many places.

White-berried elder, *Sambucus fructu albo*, Ger. Park. *Fructu in umbella viridi*, C. B. *acinis albis*, J. B. In the hedges near the village of Cambridge, plentifully. Dr. Plot. Hist. Nat. Staff.

The lesser sea-star-wort, *Tripolium minus vulgare*. Said to grow in the grounds of Mr. Chetwood of Ingstree, within two miles of Stafford, in a place called the Marsh.

With regard to the animals of this county, they are much the same as in others, though there are a few that seem peculiar to it; for upon the Trent near Rudgley, is a sort of swan, whose legs are never black, but red, like those of a tame goose. About Amerton is another web-footed fowl, called French geese: these are undoubtedly of the goose kind, they differing only in having a black bill, and in making a noise like a bittern. Here is another water-fowl, which is a kind of loon or ducker, but differs from others of that species in the head, which is not only crested with two long tufts or feathers placed about the crown of the

head, but underneath the throat has two remarkable tufts hanging down. Among the water-fowl is also the heron, which is often seen sitting on the highest trees in Norbury park. The great loon is likewise found in this county, as well as the avosetta of Italy. In the mountains of the moorlands there are heathcocks and grouse. Of the musical small birds, are the mountain chaffinch, the gros beak, and the black martin, whose legs are so short, that it can hardly rise from the ground; for which reason it is always seen either flying, or sitting on the top of high buildings.

This county is seated in the province of Canterbury, and diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, and has one hundred and fifty parishes. It is divided into five hundreds, and contains the city of Litchfield and seventeen market-towns; namely, Abbots Bromley, Betley, Breewood, Burton upon Trent, Cheadle, Eccleshall, Leek, Newcastle under Line, Penkridge, Rugeley, Stafford, Stone, Tamworth, Tutbury, Utoxeter, Walshall, and Wolverhampton. It sends ten members to parliament, namely, two knights of the shire for the county, two citizens for the city of Litchfield, and two representatives for each of the following boroughs, Stafford, Tamworth, and Newcastle under Line.

We shall enter this county by the London road which leads to LITCHFIELD. The name of this city is, according to some authors, a corruption of Ligidfeld, its ancient British name, which signifies a field of carcases, a great slaughter of Christians having been made here in the persecution under the emperor Dioclesian; but Dr. Stukeley affirms, that it received its name from the marshy bog which surrounds the church, the word Loche signifying a watry place. Litchfield stands in a valley, three miles

## S T A F F O R D S H I R E. 205

miles south of the Trent, and is divided by a stream which runs into that river. The part of the town on the south side of this stream, is termed the city, and that on the north side is called the close, from its being encompassed with a wall and dry ditch on every side, except that next the city; which is much the largest part, and is joined to the close by two bridges.

This place arose from the ruins of a Roman town named Etocetum, seated at a mile distance, where the Ikening and Watling-streets cross each other, and is now called Chesterfield-wall, from some remains of its fortifications. Litchfield is a long straggling place, but has some handsome houses; and the streets are well paved, and kept clean. It is a great thoroughfare from London to the counties in the north-west of England, and has several very good inns. This town is a county of itself, containing about ten or twelve miles in compass; whence, on September 19, the sheriff rides round the bounds, and gives a feast to the corporation and neighbouring gentry. It was made a metropolitan see by king Offa; and St. Ceadde lived the life of a hermit here, by the spring near Stow church. Together with Coventry it is the see of a bishop, and has a cathedral, and three parish churches. The cathedral, which stands in the close, is said to have been founded by Oswy, king of Mercia, in the year 656 or 657; and about the year 789, king Offa, by the favour of pope Adrian, constituted it an archiepiscopal see; but Litchfield, about ten years after, lost this honour, and its church and diocese were again rendered subject to the metropolitan see of Canterbury. In 1075 this see was translated to Chester, and from thence, in 1102, to Coventry; but soon after the bishops settled here again, and about  
the



the year 1140, Roger de Clinton, founded a new cathedral, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Chadd, and both restored and augmented the chapter: and to this cathedral now belong a bishop, a dean, a precentor, a chancellor, a treasurer, four archdeacons, twenty-seven prebendaries, five priest-vicars, seven lay-clerks, or singing-men, eight choristers, and under officers and servants. The revenues of this bishopric were valued at the dissolution at 795 l. 17 s. 6 d. per annum. A sub-chanter, a sacrist, the vicars and clerks of this cathedral, seem to have been collegiate since about the year 1240, and their revenues were valued at the dissolution at 202 l. 1 s. per annum. The choristers of this church, had likewise distinct estates appropriated to their use, which were valued at the suppression at 39 l. 9 s. 7 d. a year.

This cathedral suffered much in the civil wars under Charles the First, when all the ornaments on the inside, with the brass inscriptions, tombs, and the like, were entirely ruined, and they were, even going to pull down the whole fabrick for sale; but it was so thoroughly repaired after the restoration, that it is now esteemed a very handsome Gothic structure. It is built of a reddish kind of stone, and extends four hundred and fifty feet in length on the inside, of which the choir is one hundred and ten, and it is eighty feet in breadth. Over the middle of the church is a lofty spire, and the front is adorned with a good portico, Above which are two corresponding spires. On the portico are likewise twenty-six statues, of the prophets, apostles, and kings of Judah, as large as the life. The stalls of the prebendaries are of excellent workmanship, erected at the expence of some gentlemen in the county; and each bears the name and arms of the donor. Behind the choir is a neat chapel.

In

In 1758, as some workmen were removing the earth, near the north door of the great cross isle of this cathedral, they discovered, at the depth of a little more than three feet, a tomb-stone of an uncommon size, it being near fifteen inches thick, upon which was rudely engraved a calvary cross, with a falcheon on its dexter side, with its pummel erect. Upon displacing the stone, a coffin of a different kind of stone was found; its lid was cemented with mortar, and within it were the remains of a human skeleton; the skull, the leg and thigh bones, and the vertebrae of the back were pretty entire, but the rest were mouldered into dust. The skull reclined towards the right shoullder; the arms were across; but every part was disunited.

The parish churches of this city have nothing remarkable; but one of them, dedicated to St. Michael, has a church-yard that contains six or seven acres of ground.

This city was incorporated by king Edward the Sixth, and is governed by two bailiffs, twenty-four burgesses, a recorder, a sheriff, a steward, and other officers. The members to serve in parliament are chosen by the freemen, freeholders, and burgess-tenors paying scot and lot. It gives the title of earl to the noble family of Lee.

Litchfield is famous for its fine ale; and has a free-school, a large and well endowed hospital for the relief of the poor, and a prison for debtors and felons apprehended within its liberties, and in the neighbourhood of the city are frequent horse-races. It has a market on Tuesdays and Fridays, and three fairs, held on Shrove-Monday, for cattle, sheep, bacon, cheese and iron; on the 12th of May, for sheep and horned cattle; and on the Friday before November 8, for geese and cheese.

In the south part of the city, a house of Grey friars was founded about the year 1229, by Alexander, bishop of Litchfield; and at a small distance from it, was a college, priory, or hospital, dedicated to St. John, in which was a master and fellows, who, at the dissolution, had a yearly revenue valued at 46 l. 18 s. 1 d. This hospital is still in being.

Elias Ashmole, an eminent philosopher, chemist, and antiquary of the seventeenth century, and founder of the noble Museum at Oxford, which still bears his name, was born at Litchfield on the 23d of May, 1617, and educated at Brazen-nose college in Oxford. During the civil wars he adhered to his majesty, king Charles the First; and upon the restoration of king Charles the Second, he was appointed Windsor herald, and comptroller of the excise. The university of Oxford too, in compliment to his merit, honoured him with the degree of doctor of physic, and the inns of court gratified him with that of barrister at law. He was likewise employed in ordering and assorting the king's cabinet of coins; and his own collection of curiosities, which, a little before his death, he presented to the university of Oxford, was deposited, by that university, in a stately edifice, which, in honour to his memory, was denominated Musaeum Ashmolaeum. He died May the 18th, 1692, and was interred in the church of Great Lambeth in Surrey. Tho' a man of strong parts and extensive learning, he seems to have been infected with some ridiculous prejudices; particularly an attachment to the hermetic philosophy, and a belief of the reality and virtues of the *Philosopher's Stone*. He actually wrote a book on this subject, entitled, *Theatrum Chymicum Britannicum*; but his principal work

is

is his *History of the Garter*, which is greatly admired.

George Smalridge, an elegant writer, a learned divine, and a pious and worthy prelate in the beginning of the eighteenth century, was the son of a reputable dyer at Litchfield, and was born in that city in the year 1663. He had his education at Westminster-school, and at Christ-church college, Oxford; and in both these seminaries he distinguished himself greatly by his genius and application. While he was at school he wrote two elegies, the one in Latin, the other in English, upon the death of William Lilly, the famous astrologer; and during his residence in the college, he assisted the doctors Aldrich and Atterbury, in combating Obadiah Walker, the great popish champion. In 1692 he was chosen minister of Tothil-fields chapel, Westminster. The next year he obtained a prebend in the cathedral of Litchfield; and rising gradually thro' other preferments, was at last promoted to the bishopric of Bristol. He was likewise appointed almoner to her majesty queen Anne; and enjoyed the same place under her successor, king George the First, till the year 1715, when refusing to concur with the other bishops in signing the declaration against the rebellion, he was deprived of that employment. This loss, however, was, in some measure, made up by the kindness of her royal highness the princess of Wales, afterwards queen Caroline, who took him under her protection, and continued to shew him the highest marks of favour till the day of his death, which happened on the 27th of September, 1719. The princess extended her generosity to the family of the deceased, for she bestowed a pension of 300l. a year upon his widow, and procured a good benefice in the church for his son, Mr. Henry Smalridge.



ridge. Sixty of the bishop's sermons were published in 1724, in one volume folio.

WALL, a village a mile south of Litchfield, is supposed, by Dr. Plot, to have been the Roman station named Etocetum, and imagines, that it obtained its present name from the remains of the ancient wall; and the inhabitants have a tradition that here was a city, which was destroyed before the Norman conquest. Here have been found two pavements of Roman bricks, and many Roman coins.

At the village of CHESTERFIELD, about half a mile from Wall, have been found several antiquities, particularly Roman coins, and the pedestal of a column, very well wrought.

Eight miles to the east of Litchfield is TAMWORTH, which receives its name from the river Thame, by which it is so equally divided, that half of the town stands on the west side of that river in Staffordshire, and the other half in Warwickshire, for which reason each side chooses a representative in parliament; and the borough is by some writers placed in Staffordshire, and by others in Warwickshire. It is seated on the east side of the county, one hundred and seven miles north-west of London. When it was built does not appear; but it must have been very ancient, as king Offa had a seat here, in the year 781; for had it not been a place of some repute before, and perhaps well fortified, it would hardly, at that time, have been the seat of a king: there is still remaining a square trench, called the King's ditch, which, in a manner, surrounds the whole town. To the north-west of the church, there seems to have been a mount or bastion, somewhat higher than the rest of the works; and to the north-east of it, is another mount, placed in an angle, as well as the former; but whether these were

were made before, or after the days of king Offa, is not easy to be determined. It was destroyed in the Danish wars, but rebuilt by Ethelfleda, a Mercian lady, and Editha, the daughter of king Edward the Elder. This town was given to the Marmyons by William the Conqueror, who built the castle here, and were hereditary champions to the kings of England, from whom that office descended to the Dymocks. Of late years many spear-heads, and the bones of men and horses, have been found here by digging.

Tamworth appears to have been first incorporated by queen Elizabeth, under whose charter it is governed by a high-steward, two bailiffs, one for that part of the town in each county, a recorder, an under steward, twenty-four principal burgesses, a town-clerk, two serjeants at mace, and other officers. The corporation have power to keep a three weeks court of record, and a court-leet twice a year; and they have a jail and a common seal. It is a considerable town, that has a great trade in narrow cloths and other manufactures. In the Staffordshire side of the town is a church, which is collegiate, founded by queen Elizabeth, and a fine hospital, founded by Mr. Guy, the rich bookseller, who founded the noble hospital, which bears his name, in the borough of Southwark. It has also several meeting-houses of Protestant dissenters. Its market is on Saturdays, and it has three fairs, held on the 4th of May, for horned cattle and sheep; on the 29th of July, for horned cattle and wool; and on the 24th of October, for all sorts of cattle.

At Tamworth was a convent of religious before the end of the tenth century, of which no particulars are known, and also an hospital, dedicated to St. James, which, at the dissolution, had  
a revenue

a revenue valued at no more than 3l. 6s. 8d. a year.

About two miles south of Tamworth is FAZE-  
LY, which has two fairs, held on the 21st of  
March, for horned cattle, and on the 10th of  
October, for all sorts of cattle.

At WIGGINGTON, a village two miles north-  
west of Tamworth, are several Roman tumuli;  
in some of which, that have been dug up, have  
been discovered ashes, charcoal, and pieces of  
burnt bones.

Five miles to the north by west of Litchfield is  
RUGELEY, or RUDGLEY, commonly called  
RIDGLEY, a town in the road from Litchfield  
to Lancashire and Cheshire. It is one hundred and  
twenty-six miles north-west of London, and is a  
handsome well built town, seated on the Trent.  
It has a market on Tuesdays, and two fairs, held  
on the 6th of June, and the 21st of October, for  
horses, sheep and horned cattle; and in its neigh-  
bourhood is a paper mill.

Six miles to the east of Rugeley is BARTON UN-  
DER NEEDWOOD, a village four miles south-west  
of Burton upon Trent, which has two fairs, held  
on the 3d of May, for cattle and sheep; and on  
the 8th of November, for cows. Here dwelt a  
person named Taylor, in a little cottage, whose  
wife having three sons at a birth, they were pre-  
sented to king Henry the Seventh, when he came to  
hunt at Needwood; on which that king ordered  
them to be taken care of. They were afterwards  
sent to school, and properly educated. The el-  
dest of them became doctor of laws, archdeacon  
of Derby and Bucks, and master of the rolls, as  
appears from an inscription in a chapel built by  
himself at Barton, near the spot where he was  
born. This chapel is a neat structure, that has  
some resemblance to that of Henry the Seventh's  
chapel

chapel at Westminster. His two brothers are said to have become doctors.

WHICHNOR, or WICHENOVER, six miles to the north by east of Litchfield, is remarkable for a custom, like that of Dunmow in Essex, the ancient institution says, “ the lord of the  
 “ manor shall have a bacon-flitch hanging in  
 “ his hall at Whichnor, ready at all times of the  
 “ year, except in Lent, to be given to any man or  
 “ woman that is married a whole year and a day,  
 “ whenever they come to demand it, either in  
 “ their own person, or by their deputy. When  
 “ any of them come, they shall make their de-  
 “ mand of the porter or bailiff of the lordship,  
 “ who shall appoint them to return on a certain  
 “ day, with two freeholders of the lordship; and  
 “ a jury of the tenants shall be summoned to do  
 “ service to the bacon, and be present on the  
 “ day appointed, to wait for him that fetches the  
 “ bacon. When he is come, with his friends,  
 “ they shall be led with trumpets, tabors, and  
 “ other music, to the hall door, where the lord  
 “ or his steward shall stand, and enquire of the  
 “ demandant, who brings two of his neighbours  
 “ to answer upon oath, if the demandant be a  
 “ wedded man, and if a year and a day be passed  
 “ since his marriage, and whether he be a free-  
 “ man or a villain. If his neighbours answer  
 “ these three questions in the affirmative, then the  
 “ bacon shall be taken down, and laid upon a  
 “ heap of wheat and rye; and he that claimeth  
 “ the bacon shall kneel down, laying his right  
 “ hand upon a book, lying upon the bacon and  
 “ corn, and shall make oath in the manner fol-  
 “ lowing:

“ Hear, you Sir William Somervile of Whi-  
 “ chenover, maintainer and giver of this bacon,  
 “ that I, A. B. since I wedded C. D. my wife,  
 “ and



“ and since I had her in my keeping and my will,  
“ for a year and a day after our marriage, would  
“ not have changed her for any other, fairer or  
“ fouler, richer or poorer, nor for any descended  
“ of greater lineage, sleeping or waking, at no  
“ time ; and if the said C. D. were single, and I  
“ single, I would take her to be my wife before  
“ all the women in the world, of what condition  
“ soever they be, good or evil, as help me God  
“ and his saints, and this flesh of all fleshes ; and  
“ his neighbours shall make oath that they believe  
“ he has said truly.

“ When this is done, if upon enquiry of his  
“ neighbours, he be found a freeman, there shall  
“ be delivered to him half a quarter of wheat and  
“ a cheese ; but if he be a villain, he shall have  
“ half a quarter of rye, without a cheese. Then  
“ shall Robert Knightely, lord of the manor of  
“ Rudlow, or his bailiff, who was before sum-  
“ moned by the bailiff of Wichenover to be rea-  
“ dy with a horse and saddle, a sack and pryke,  
“ called to carry them away for the demandant ;  
“ and the said corn shall be laid upon one horse,  
“ and the bacon above it ; and the demandant  
“ shall get upon his horse, if he have one, and  
“ take the cheese before him ; and if he have no  
“ horse, the lord of Wichenover shall lend him  
“ a horse and saddle, and all the free-tenants  
“ of Wichenover shall conduct him, with trum-  
“ pets, tabors, and other sorts of music, till he be  
“ out of the lordship of Wichenover ; and then  
“ they shall return, except he who is to attend  
“ him on the journey, at the cost of the lord of  
“ Wichenover. And if the said Robert Knighte-  
“ ly does not cause the bacon and corn to be con-  
“ veyed in the manner aforesaid at his own cost,  
“ the lord of Wichenover shall provide that it  
“ shall be so carried, and shall distrain the said  
“ Robert

“ Robert Knightely for his default, one hundred  
 “ shillings, in his manor of Rudlow.” This  
 manor lately belonged to John Offley, Esq;

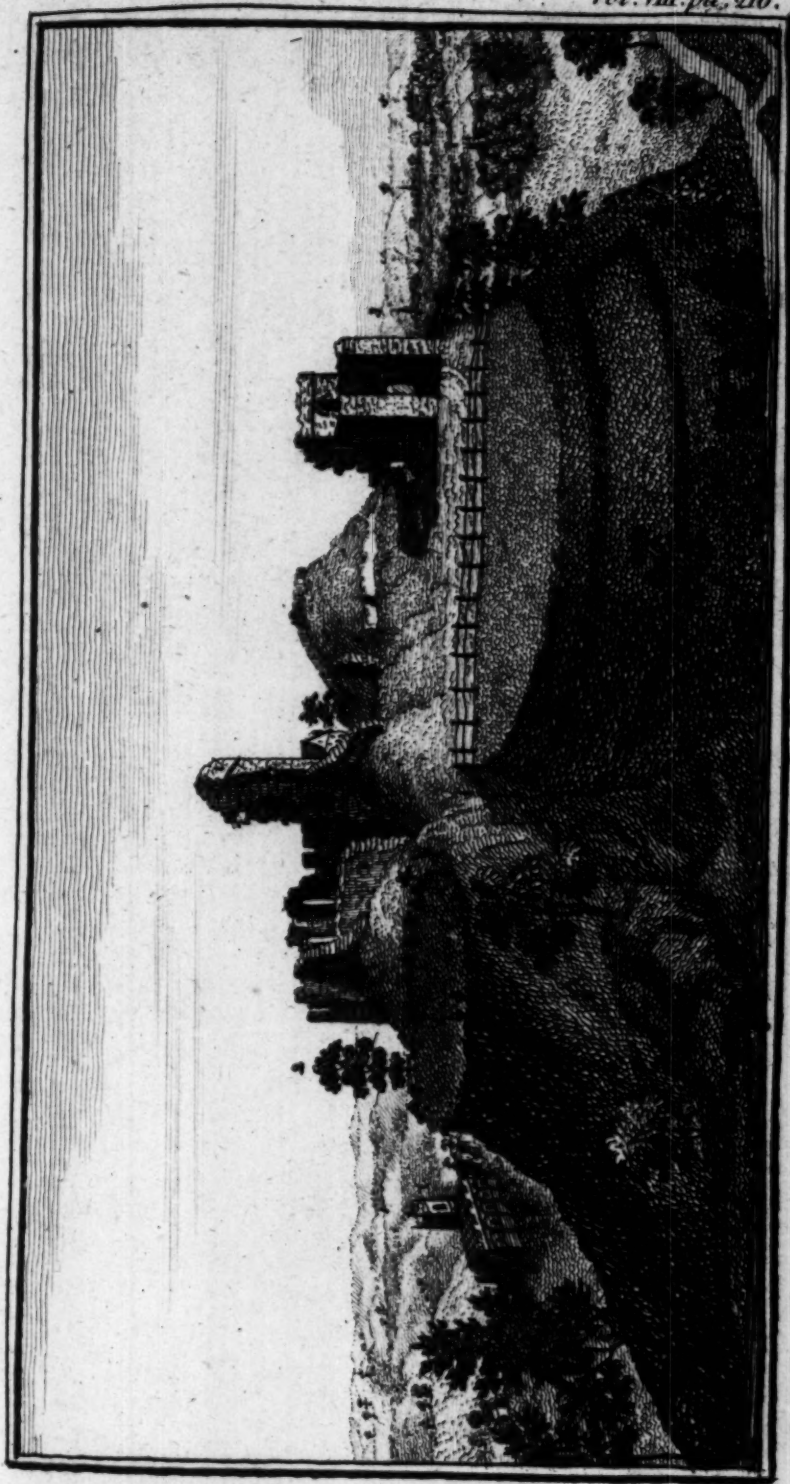
Five miles north-west of Whichnor is BURTON  
 UPON TRENT, which is in the most eastern part  
 of the county, next to Derbyshire, from which it  
 is divided by the river Trent, over which it has a  
 famous bridge, built of squared free-stone, five  
 hundred and fifty-five yards in length, consisting  
 of thirty-seven arches. It stands at the distance  
 of one hundred and twenty-three miles north-west  
 of London, and is a considerable town, famous  
 for its good ale. It has a market on Thursdays,  
 and four fairs, held on the 5th of April, for  
 horned cattle and horses; on Holy-Thursday, for  
 horned cattle; on July 16, for toys, and on  
 October 29, which is considerable for horned cat-  
 tle. Here is also said to be a good manufactory  
 of cloth.

In this town was an abbey of Benedictine  
 monks, built in 1004, by Wulfric Spot, earl of  
 Mercia, and a great officer in the court of king  
 Ethelred, who also richly endowed it, and de-  
 dicated it to the Virgin Mary and St. Modwen.  
 King Ethelred granted this abbey many consider-  
 able privileges, and after the death of its founder,  
 it had several other benefactors, by which means  
 it grew so rich, that the abbots of this house sat  
 among the lords. At the time of the suppression,  
 it was valued at about 268l. a year by Dugdale;  
 but at 357, by Speed. In 1541, king Henry  
 the Eighth founded, on the site of this abbey, a  
 church and college for a dean and canons, de-  
 dicated to Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary;  
 but this college was dissolved before the 31st of  
 January 1545.

Four miles north by west of Burton is TUT-  
 BURY, or STUTESBURY, a town seated upon the  
 bank

bank of the river Dove, on the edge of the county next Derbyshire, and is famous for a castle, formerly inhabited by the dukes of Lancaster of the royal blood, seated on a rocky hill, from whence there is a beautiful and extensive prospect over a fine country. This castle was given by king William the First, to Henry earl de Ferrariis, who built a Benedictine priory contiguous to it, about the year 1080, and dedicated it to the Virgin Mary; and in this priory he was interred. The castle passed by forfeiture to the crown, from this family, who were then earls of Derby, to Edmund, the second son of king Henry the Third, and by a daughter of his family, to John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, the third son of king Edward the Third, who repaired the castle, and new built its front. It at present belongs to the noble family of Cavendish, the duke of Devonshire being lord of it; and of this castle we have given a view. The above priory was a cell to the abbey of St. Peter Super-Divam in Normandy, but was made denizen, and continued till the surrender of religious houses, when its revenue was valued at 244 l. 16 s. 8 d. a year. Tutbury has a market on Tuesdays, and three fairs, held on the 14th of February, the 15th of August, and the first of December, for a few horned cattle.

At Tutbury was an ancient custom belonging to the castle, where the dukes and earls of Lancaster resided, whose principal diversion being music, all musicians were permitted to come thither. Thus they at length became so numerous, that frequent quarrels arose among them; on which account it became necessary to form rules, to keep them in order. This was done, and a governor was appointed, who had the title of king, and had several officers under him, to put the  
the



*The East View of Tutbury Castle, in the County of Stafford.*

*1 The Priory. 2 Duns Cross Elm. 3 Uttaveter. 4 Dubridge. 5 Sydbury. 6 Sempston.*





the laws in execution, and to apprehend any disorderly musician that did not observe them. John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, granted a charter to this governor, bearing date the 22d of August, in the fourth year of the reign of Richard the Second, by which he was called king of the Minstrels. In the reign of Henry the Sixth, the prior of Tutbury gave these minstrels a bull, on condition they could take him on the side of the river Dove, next to Tutbury. This custom is now altered; for the Minstrels come on the 16th of August to the bailiff's house, of the manor of Tutbury; where the steward for the court, on his deputy meeting them, they go from thence to the parish church two and two together, the musick playing before them, and the king of the Minstrels for the year past, walking between the steward and bailiff. The four under officers of the king of the Minstrels, have each a white wand, and immediately follow them; and then the rest of the company in order. Being come to the church the vicar reads the service, for which every Minstrel offers a penny, as due to the vicar. The service ended, they proceed in like manner as before to the castle hall, where the king of the Minstrels sits between the steward and the bailiff, and there he renews the minstrels, belonging to the honour; and if any one makes default, he is to be presented and fined. Then they proceed to several other ceremonies, which are solemn enough; and it seems there are Minstrels belonging to the honour of Tutbury, who live in the counties of Stafford, Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Warwick, who owe suit and service to his majesty's court of musick held here. When new officers are chosen, and every thing relating to the meeting performed, they repair to another handsome room in the castle,

where there's a plentiful dinner prepared. The Minstrels formerly went to the abbey gate, but now to a little barn by the town side, in expectation of the bull to be turned out, which must have his horns cut off, his tail cropped, and his body smeared all over with soap; likewise his nose must be blown full of pepper, to make him as mad as possible. After this he is turned out, and is to be caught only by the minstrels, within the county of Stafford, between the time of his turning out and the setting of the sun. If they cannot take him, and he gets over the river into Derbyshire, he then remains the property of the former owner. If the minstrels cut off a bit of his hair, the bull is afterwards to be brought to the bull ring in the high street, and there baited with dogs; after this is done, the minstrels are to have him for their own. This sport is called Bull-running, and should be annually performed by the minstrels only; but they are now assisted by a promiscuous multitude; and there being an emulation between the Staffordshire and Derbyshire men, a great deal of mischief is often done.

ABBOT'S BROMLEY, or PAGET'S BROMLEY, was originally called only Bromley, and had the additional name of Abbots, from an abbey situated there; and it received the name of Paget's Bromley, from that abbey being given to the lord Paget, at the dissolution of monasteries. It stands six miles west of Tutbury, and is a pretty place, with a good market on Tuesdays, and three fairs, held on the Thursday before Midlent-Sunday; on the 22d of May, and the 24th of August, for horses and horned cattle.

They had here a sport celebrated at Christmas, called the Hobby-horse dance, in which a person carried the image of a horse, made of thin boards, between his legs, and held a bow and arrow

row in his hands. The arrow passed through a hole in the bow, and stopping at a shoulder upon it, made a snapping noise, as he threw it to and fro, keeping time with the music. Six others danced with this man, carrying on their shoulders as many deers heads, three of which were painted white and red, with the arms of Paget, Bagot, and Wells. In this manner they danced the hays, and other country dances. To this hobby-horse dance belonged a pot, which was kept by turns, by four or five of the chief of the town, whom they called Reeves; and these provided cakes and ale to be put in the pot; and all that liked the institution, gave a penny a-piece for themselves and families; by this means, after the charge of the cakes and ale was defrayed, they got money enough to repair the church, and maintain the poor.

From Abbot's Bromley a road extends five miles north to UTTOXETER, or UTCESTER, which is seated on a hill of an easy ascent, near the western banks of the river Dove, amidst very fine meadows stocked with numbers of cattle. It was a very handsome town before it had suffered so much by fire, and is now a pretty large place. The streets are broad, clean, and well paved, but most of the houses are meanly built. It has a spacious market place, with a cross in the center; and a very good market on Wednesdays, which is one of the most considerable in England, for horned cattle, sheep, swine, butter, cheese, corn, and all sorts of provisions, and such quantities of cheese are brought here, that the London cheesemongers have factors in the town, who frequently purchase cheese to the amount of 500 l. in one market day. Bromley has a bridge over the Dove, and in its neighbourhood are many considerable iron works. The town has three fairs, which are held on the 6th of May, and the 31st



of July, for horned cattle and sheep, and on the 19th of September, for strong black colts and horned cattle.

Thomas Allen, the most celebrated mathematician of his time, was born, December 21, 1542, at Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, and educated at Trinity college in Oxford. His knowledge in the mathematics was so great, that he, as well as the famous friar Bacon, was represented by the ignorant and vulgar, as a conjurer or magician; and in this capacity, it is alledged, he was employed by the earl of Leicester, the powerful favourite of queen Elizabeth, who made him an offer of a bishopric, which he thought proper to decline. He died September the 30th, 1632, in the ninetyeth year of his age. His curious collection of manuscripts is in the Bodleian library.

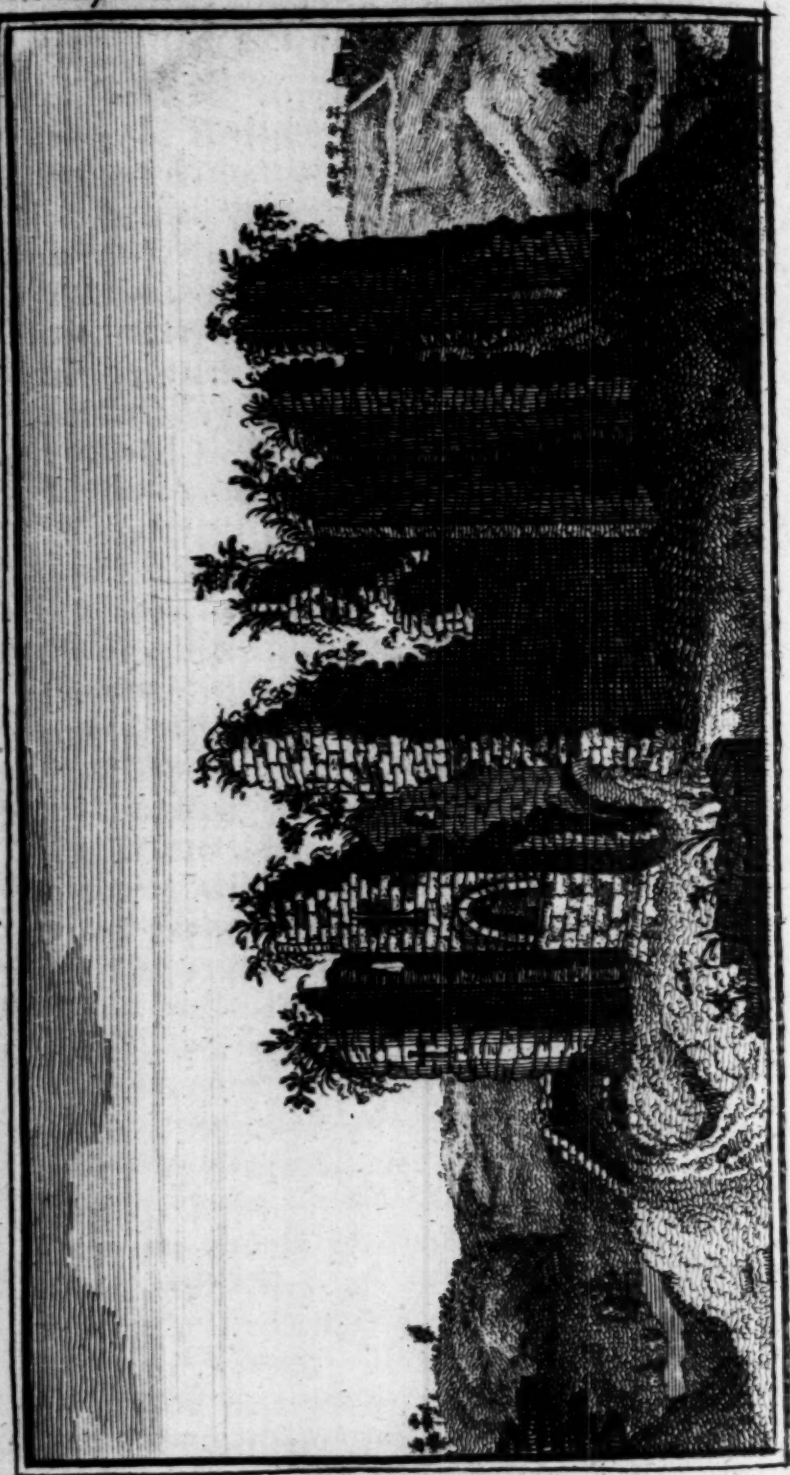
At ROCESTER, three miles to the northward of Uttoxeter, was a monastery of canons regular, of the order of St. Augustine, founded and endowed with large possessions, by Richard Bacon, nephew to Ranulph, earl of Chester, about the year 1146, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. These possessions were confirmed by Henry the Third, in the thirtieth year of his reign. This monastery had, at the suppression, nine religious, when its revenues were valued at 100 l. 2 s. 10 d. a year by Dugdale, and at upwards of 111 l. by Speed.

In the church-yard of CHECKLEY, a village three miles west of Uttoxeter, are three tall stones, in the form of pyramids, engraved with a variety of figures. The inhabitants have a tradition, that there was an engagement in the neighbourhood between two armies, one armed, and the other unarmed; and that in one of the armies, three bishops were killed, and that these  
stones



*The South West View of Alton Castle, in the County of Stafford.*

*Vol. VIII. pa. 221.*



stones were erected to their memory. They are supposed to be Danish monuments.

About four miles to the north of Uttoxeter is CROXTON-ABBAY, which was erected by Bertram de Verdun, in the year 1176, for monks of the Cistercian order, and he endowed it with lands and revenues, which were valued at the suppression at 90l. 5s. 11d. a year by Dugdale, and at 103l. 6s. 5d. by Speed. There are magnificent ruins still remaining, which shew that it must have been a spacious and beautiful structure. The present owner is the earl of Macclesfield.

About four miles north-east of Croxton-abbey is CHEADLE, which is seated at the spring head of the river Terne, which falls into the Dove near Uttoxeter. It has a charity-school, with a market on Saturdays, and two fairs, held on Holy-Thursday, for horned cattle, and on the 21st of August, for horned cattle and horses.

At ALTON, a village three miles east of Cheadle, are the ruins of a castle, which was built before the time of William the Conqueror. In the 22d year of the reign of Henry II. Bertram de Verdun was lord of it, and made it the place of his residence. The manor belonging to this family contained no less than ten villages, and some say fourteen. The male line, however, failing, it came by marriage to the Furnivals, and afterwards to the Nevils; but it at present belongs to the family of the earl of Shrewsbury. We have given a view of its ruins, and the walls that remain are lofty, and shew that it was a very strong place.

CARESWELL is a village in the moorlands, three miles west of Cheadle, where was a handsome castle, built by William de Careswell, which, not many years ago, was in good repair, but as to its present state, we can say but little.



From Cheadle a road extends eleven miles north to LEEK, which is seated in the moorlands, and has a small manufacture of buttons. The market is on Wednesdays, and there are here seven fairs, which are held on the Wednesday before Candlemas-day, on Easter-Wednesday, the 18th of May, Whitsun-Wednesday, the 3d of July, the 28th of the same month, and the 13th of November, for cattle and pedlars goods. In Bluehills, in the neighbourhood of this town, are coal-pits, and a salt stream proceeds from those hills, which tinges the stones and earth through which it passes, with the colour of rusty iron; and with the infusion of galls turns as black as ink. Here are rocks of a most surprizing height, without any turf or mould upon them.

About seven miles eastward of Leek is ECTON hill, remarkable for a famous mine of copper belonging to the duke of Devonshire. That part of the hill, in which the mine is situated, is of a conical form, and its perpendicular height, next the river Dove, which runs close by it, is about seven hundred feet, and its diameter, from that river quite through, about half a mile. The upper strata or mould is about fifteen inches thick, and produces very fine herbage for sheep and other cattle, who constantly graze on the top and sides; and where the declivity will admit of plowing, very fine wheat, barley and oats, are produced in great plenty.

About thirty years ago, this copper mine was discovered by a Cornish miner, who passing over the hill, by accident found a bit of ore, annexed to some fine spar, to which that metal usually adheres. On viewing the situation and height of the hill, he concluded that it might contain vast quantities of copper ore, and that no place could be more convenient for working it: he therefore communicated

communicated his discovery and his sentiments to some adventurers at Ashburn, who approving the project, applied to the duke of Devonshire, grandfather to the present duke, for a lease to search for copper in that hill. However, above 13,000 l. were expended before any returns were made, when several of the original adventurers, despairing of success, sold their shares at a considerable loss. But the second adventurers were more fortunate; for after sinking a shaft of about two hundred yards deep, and driving in an adit, immense quantities of copper ore were found, which continued to increase, the lower they descended; by which means, at the termination of the lease, they had acquired very considerable fortunes, and it then fell into the hands of the present duke's father.

In going to take a view of this stupendous mine, you enter an adit at the base of the hill, by the river Dove, and proceed about four hundred yards, almost in a direct line. For about sixty yards from the entrance, it is four feet and a half high, walled upon each side with good stone masonry; but afterwards it varies in its height, and in some places rises to six feet. When you arrive at the center, there is a spacious lodgment of timber, for landing and receiving the ore from below, which is drawn up with a winch, by a man who generally works naked, and is put into four-wheel carriages, that will hold about a ton and a half each. These carriages have cast brass wheels, and are run in grooves through the adit with great facility, by boys from twelve to fourteen years of age. When on the lodgment, you behold a large hollow, at least two hundred and fifty yards high, over your head, by the sides of which there is a passage to the summit. Thus far it is easy to pass

with the assistance of lights; but below there is such a horrid gloom, such rattling of carriages, the noise of workmen boring of rocks under your feet, such explosions in blasting, and such a dreadful gulph to descend, that few people, who are not versed in mining, care to gratify their curiosity, by braving such a scene of terrors.

The descent from the platform is about a hundred and sixty yards, through different lodgments, by ladders, steps, and cross pieces of timber let into the rock. In passing down, the constant blasting of the rocks, which makes a noise ten times louder than the loudest thunder, seems to shake the whole body of the mountain. When at the bottom, strangers are obliged to take shelter in a niche, as the miners generally give a salute of half a dozen blasts, in quick succession, by way of welcome, to these horrid mansions. Here the monstrous cavern above, the glimmering light of candles, and the suffocating smell of sulphur and gunpowder, all conspire to encrease the stranger's surprize, and heighten his apprehensions.

The position, situation, and inclination of this mine, are different from any yet discovered in the known world; for the amazing mass of copper ore, with which this hill is impregnated, does not run in regular veins or courses, but sinks perpendicularly down, widening and swelling out at the bottom, in the form of a bell. Suppose yourself now, says our author, upwards of two hundred fathoms deep, in the bowels of a mountain, in a great hollow of immense diameter; then suppose around you an impenetrable wall of limestone rock, interspersed with small veins of copper ore, yellow, black, and some brown, intermixt with spar, marcasite, mundic, and other sulphureous compositions, of all colours; and at the same time figure to yourself the sooty complexions  
of

of the miners, their labour, and miserable way of living in those subterraneous regions, and you will then be apt to fancy yourself in another world. Yet these inhabitants, being trained up in darkness, labour and confinement, are not, perhaps, less happy, or less contented, than those who possess the more flattering enjoyments of light and liberty.

There is no timber made use of, except for lodgments, or platforms, ladders, or steps, set into the rocks, for ascending and descending into the mine; neither is there any considerable quantity of water to retard the works, though they are, at least, one hundred and fifty yards below the bed of the river. Hence, four horses, working six hours each, at a common engine, are sufficient to keep the mine clear. In this mine, which is the deepest in Great-Britain, about sixty stout, well made fellows, work night and day, six hours at a time, for one shilling each man; and though the major part work naked, except having on a pair of coarse canvass drawers, they are as merry and jovial a set of mortals as ever inhabited such infernal regions.

The ore, when conveyed out in carriages by the boys, as above related, is thrown together in a heap, and two men are employed in breaking it into small pieces, with large hammers. It is then conveyed by boys, in hand-barrows, to a place under a shed, to be picked and sorted in three different parcels, the best, second, and worst; which is performed by little girls from eight to twelve years of age, who separate the various kinds with astonishing quickness and dexterity. The ore is carried from thence to another large and convenient shed, where, about fifty women, sit back to back, on benches, to buck or beat it



with flat hammers, still keeping every particular sort separate. The ore, now reduced to a small sand, is removed to the buddles for washing, where an old experienced Cornish man has the superintendency of it, as a great deal of the finest ore would be lost, if this operation was not properly performed. Here, then it is washed and cleansed, and afterwards exposed for sale in the open air, in various heaps, ticketed according to the different qualities and quantities. Ticketing the ore, is taking a couple of handfulls off a heap of ore promiscuously, and putting them into canvass bags by way of sample ; then labels are fixed to the bags, signifying the quality of each parcel. Notice is then given to the smelting-houses, whose proprietors or managers attend, and each bids what price he thinks proper, generally from 7*l.* to 16*l.* per ton, the highest bidder being the buyer, who takes it away at his own expence. The refuse part of the ore, which is not fit for sale, is carried to the smelting-house on the premises erected by his grace, and there run into a regulus, in large pigs or bars, and is then sold from seventy to ninety pounds per ton. Upon the whole, nothing is lost.

The miners, as before observed, work at two pence per hour, six hours at a time ; the women, by task, earn from four pence to eight pence a day, and are paid by measure, according to the quantity of ore, broken into sand. Girls and boys have, from two pence to four pence a day, and some more ; thus there is a constant employment for both sexes and all ages, from five to sixty years old. The carpenter's shop, the smith's forge, the cooperage, with the neat dwelling-houses of the superintendants, little kitchen gardens and out-houses annexed, are all singular in their kind, and happily adapted to make life agreeable

agreeable in that solitary place, which lies between two monstrous hills, separated at least two miles from any other inhabitants.

This copper-mine, in the state above described, clears annually between eight and ten thousand pounds; and if worked with that spirit which usually accompanies large returns, double that sum might be made of it; but his grace, it seems, is content that it employs all the labouring poor who present themselves for work, from the neighbouring parishes.

All the country round reaps advantage from the number of hands employed, and the annual circulation of between three and four thousand pounds in cash, in a place that was poor and thinly inhabited, before this mine was discovered; but is now much improved, and above three hundred men, women, and children employed, summer and winter, who have proper overseers for every department, where every thing goes on with the utmost harmony and cheerfulness.

On the opposite side of Ecton hill, has been lately discovered a lead-mine, which is likely to turn out to great advantage, the veins of lead approaching very near to the copper.

About nine miles to the north of Leek, the county ends in a point, where there are three shire stones very near to each other; one in this county, another in Cheshire, and the third in Derbyshire.

We have now viewed the towns in the most easterly part of the county, proceeding from south to north, and shall next take a view of those on the western side.

Ten miles south by west of Leek is NEWCASTLE UNDER LINE, which received its name from a castle now in ruins, built in the reign of Henry

the Third, which was called **NEW**, to distinguish it from an older castle; which stood at **CHESTERTON**, a village in its neighbourhood, and was afterwards called **Newcastle under Line or Lime**, from its situation upon the east side of a branch of the **Trent**, called the **Line**, or **Lime**; but its castle has been long levelled with the ground. It is situated fourteen miles north by west of **Stafford**, thirty-one north-west of **Litchfield**, and one hundred and forty-nine north-west of **London**. It was incorporated by king **Henry the First**, and again by queen **Elizabeth** and **Charles the Second**, and is at present governed by a mayor, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common-council men, with inferior officers. The corporation has a court for holding pleas, for any sum under 40 l. and the burgesſes, who amount to upwards of five hundred, elect the members to serve in parliament. The streets are broad and well paved, but many of the buildings low, and some of them thatched. Here were formerly four churches, but the town suffered so much by the barons wars, that they are now reduced to one. The chief manufacture of this town is hats, and there is an incorporated company of felt-makers. It has a market on Mondays, and five fairs, held on **Easter-Monday**, **Whitsun-Monday**, the Monday before the 15th of July, the next Monday after the 11th of September, and the 6th of November, all for cattle.

**CHESTERTON UNDER LINE**, is near two miles to the north of **Newcastle**; and there **Camden** informs us, he saw the ruins and shattered walls of an old castle and town; and **Erdswick** affirms, that he could perceive the walls had been of a wonderful thickness; but in 1680 **Dr. Plot** could hardly find any traces of them. This is thought to have been a place of note before the conquest,

conquest, and some say, that it went to decay in the reign of Henry the Third. That king granted it to his younger son, Edmund, earl of Lancaster, who built a castle here, which occasioned Newcastle to obtain its present name, on account of its being later built.

At BURSLEM, near Newcastle, is the greatest manufacture of pottery-ware in England, particularly of a sort called stone-ware; so that the inhabitants of Newcastle, and its neighbourhood, are said to export this manufacture to the value of 20,000 l. per annum. There is also carried on in the same place, a manufacture of earthen-ware, in imitation of China, which is neatly figured, coloured, and gilt. In the neighbourhood of Newcastle are frequent horse-races, and the town is almost surrounded with coal-pits.

Six miles north-west of Newcastle is BETLEY, or BENTLEY, which has a fair on the 20th of July, for cattle. In this parish stood Heyley castle, of which there are some traces still remaining. It was built on a lofty rock, with the stone that was dug out of the ditches, and was the seat of the lord Audley.

Three miles south of Newcastle is TRENTHAM, a village seated on the Trent, and formerly remarkable for a nunnery founded by king Ethelred, before the year 683. In the reign of king Henry the First, this house was refounded by Randal, earl of Chester, for canons of the order of St. Augustin. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and All Saints, and at the time of the suppression had about seven religious, with a revenue of 121 l. 3 s. 2 d. per annum. The lady Leveson gave 400 l. to this village, to purchase lands for the support of a school-master, to teach poor children, till they are fit to be put out apprentices.



tices. The same lady also gave the annual rent of 120 l. for the maintenance of twelve poor widows, three of them to be chosen from this village.

At Trentham is also the noble seat of earl Gower, which is esteemed one of the finest structures in this county: the house is modern, and erected on the plan of Buckingham-house in St. James's park, but being situated by the church, that somewhat obstructs the view of it. The park, which is very beautiful, is walled round, and has two large pieces of water in it; and the hills, rising immediately from the water, are finely covered with wood, which has a noble effect, as you pass along the road to Newcastle. From the park is an extensive view of the country on every side.

Six miles to the southward of Trentham is STONE, which is seated on the river Trent, in the road from Litchfield to Chester, six miles to the north of Stafford, and one hundred and forty-one north-west of London. It is said to have received its name from a heap of stones thrown up, according to the custom of the Saxons, to perpetuate the memory of a murder committed by Wolphere, king of Mercia, on his two sons, for embracing Christianity. But after his conversion, he founded a college of secular canons, about the year 670, which he dedicated to his two murdered sons, Wolfaldus and Rufinus. These secular canons were afterwards changed into regular canons, who at the suppression had a revenue of 129 l. 2 s. 11 d. per annum. Stone has several commodious inns, a free grammar-school, founded by the reverend Mr. Thomas Allen, and a small charity-school. It is a town of considerable extent, and has a market on Tuesdays, with four fairs, held on the Tuesday after Midlent, on Shrove-Tuesday,

day, Whitsun-Tuesday, and the 25th of July, for cattle, but the last is much the largest.

Near the village of DARLASTON, in the parish of Stone, are several Saxon antiquities, particularly on the top of a hill, there are the ruins of a large castle, fortified with a double vallum and intrenchments, about two hundred and fifty yards in diameter. The gate seems to have been on the west side, and some fancy there was another on the east; but on the north side is a round conical hill, cast up higher than all the rest of the works. According to tradition, this was the seat of Wulferus, king of Mercia, who killed his two sons for embracing Christianity. But this could not be depended upon, had not Sampson Erdeswic seen an old writing, relating to the foundation of the priory of Stone, in which this is inserted. Wulferus governed Mercia from the year 657 to 676; and the adjoining barrow was, in all probability, his place of burial.

ECCLESHAL is seated five miles to the westward of Stone, on the bank of a stream that runs into the river Sow. It is a pretty little town, famous for pedlars ware, and has a good charity-school. Near it the bishop of Litchfield and Coventry has a seat, called Eccleshal castle. It is uncertain by whom it was built, though some historians imagine, that it was erected by the bishop of Litchfield, in the reign of Edward the First, who was then lord high treasurer, and lord of this manor. Eccleshal has a small market on Fridays, and four fairs, held on Midlent-Thurs-day, Holy-Thurs-day, the 5th of August, and the first Friday in November, for cattle, sheep and saddle-horses.

PESHALL, an ancient manor in this parish, was in the possession of Robert, the son of Gilbert,

bert, a younger son of Richard, earl of Corbeil, in Normandy, who, in the year 1088, held it by knights fee, of Robert de Stafforde, and was hence denominated de Peshall, and from him the baronets of that name are descended. This manor is now in the possession of the earl of Breadalbin, who married the grand daughter of the late Sir Thomas Peshall.

RONTON, commonly called RONTON-ABBEY, is two miles south of Ecclethall, and five miles west by north of Stafford, and is remarkable for having had a priory of canons regular, of the order of St. Augustine, which was founded by Robert, the son of Noel, in the reign of Henry the Second, and was afterwards made a cell to the abbey of Haghman in Shropshire, by the founder. It had several other benefactors, and its revenue was valued at the suppression of religious houses, at 90 l. a year.

STAFFORD, which gives name to the county, and was formerly its principal town, is seated five miles south of Stone, sixteen north-west of Litchfield, and one hundred and thirty-five north-west of London; and stands on the river Sow, over which it has a handsome stone bridge, next the green gate, and just at the entrance into the town. It is seated low, but the streets are well paved, and the houses generally built with stone, and covered with slate. Indeed, it is a neat, well built, compact town, with a handsome market place, and a town-hall built of free-stone; in which the assizes and sessions are held. It stands upon pillars, and under it the market people meet. In Doomsday-book, which was wrote in the reign of William the Conqueror, it is called a city; but it does not appear to have been incorporated before the reign of king John. It is now governed by a mayor, a recorder, ten aldermen, twenty

twenty common-council men, a town-clerk, and two serjeants at mace; and here the county affizes and quarter sessions are always kept. It has two parish churches, St. Mary's and St. Chadd's, the first of which is a large, lofty, well built structure, but the latter is mean and low. It has also several meeting-houses of dissenters, a free-school, and an hospital, built towards the close of the last century, by Mr. Noel, a native of this town. In St. Mary's church was a very ancient free chapel royal, given by king Stephen to the bishop and chapter of Litchfield and Coventry. At the dissolution it had a dean and thirteen prebendaries. The revenue of the deanery was valued at 35 l. 13 s. 10 d. a year, but all the prebendaries had no more than 38 l. a year. Stafford was formerly walled round, but the walls were demolished during the civil wars of king Charles the First; however, three of the gates were lately standing, called the Eastgate, the Greengate, and the Jailgate: the last has its name from the county-jail, which is close by it; and from the Greengate to the Jailgate, is one continued street, though it goes under different names, and in the middle between them is the market-place, in which the market is held on Saturdays. This town has five fairs, held on the Tuesday before Shrove-Tuesday, and on the 14th of May, for horses and horned cattle; on the 29th of June, for wool; on the 2d of October, for colts, and on the 4th of December, for cattle and swine.

Upon a lofty hill, to the westward of the town, stood Stafford castle, but there is now only a few ruins of the walls remaining. This was the seat of the earls of Stafford, who derive their title from this town. Here is an ancient custom, called Borough English, by which, if the father dies



dies intestate, the youngest son inherits the lands lying within the liberties of the town.

At Stafford was a priory of canons regular of the order of St. Augustine, founded by Ralph, lord Stafford, in the reign of Edward the Third, for the health of his own soul, and those of Catharine and Margaret his wives, as well as some others. He gave these canons a piece of land in the south suburb of this town, called Forbridge; upon which they erected a church, a dormitory, a refectory, and other buildings; but there are now no remains of it to be seen, and the place is used by the Roman Catholics as a burying ground. The priory was valued at the dissolution at about 56 l. a year. In the north part of the town was a house of Franciscan friars before the year 1282, which was valued at the dissolution at 35 l. 13 s. 10 d. In the castle was formerly a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas. In the town was likewise an hospital or free-chapel, dedicated to St. Leonard, which was valued at the dissolution at only 4 l. 13 s. 4 d. per annum. And also a free chapel, or hospital, dedicated to St. John, which had a master and several poor brethren, though its revenue at the dissolution amounted to no more than 10 l. a year. In short, about half a mile to the east of Stafford, was a monastery founded about the year 1180, by Richard Peche, bishop of Litchfield, and dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. That bishop, after he had enjoyed his see twenty-one years, grew weary of the world, and retiring into his own monastery, died there in a good old age. This house had several other benefactors, and at the time of the suppression had seven religious, and a yearly revenue computed at 198 l. 0 s. 9 d.

At GNOSAL, or GNOSTAL, five miles southwest of Stafford, is a church, which has peculiar

liar privileges and customs belonging to it, as far back as the reign of Henry the First. It was given by king Stephen, to the cathedral of Litchfield, but it afterwards became a royal free chapel, and was enjoyed by secular canons at the dissolution, when its revenue was computed to be worth 47 l. 6 s. 8 d. per annum.

SHUTBOROUGH, about three miles south-east of Stafford, is remarkable for a horse bridge over the river Trent, supported by forty arches; and we are told, that it is the largest bridge in England, which perhaps may be true; and yet it is much more inconsiderable than many others, because it will not admit any carriages to pass over it.

Five miles to the south of Stafford is PENKRIDGE, or PENKRICH, which is seated on the river Peak, from which it receives its name, and over it has a stone bridge. According to Mr. Camden, this was the Pennocrucium of Antoninus; but, as it lies a mile or two north of the military way, this opinion is disputed; it is, however, agreed, that it rose out of the ruins of that station; and to strengthen this opinion, it is observed, that some years ago, was plowed up in the land by this place, a very remarkable piece of Roman antiquity; namely, a brass head of the bolt of a catapulta. In this town was a collegiate church, dedicated to St. Michael the archangel, and given to the bishop and churches of Litchfield and Coventry, before the reign of king Stephen. At length, the advowson of the church, and the manor were granted by one Hugh Huose, to the archbishop of Dublin, in Ireland, who became dean of this church, and had the collation of all the prebendaries, who at the time of the dissolution were about thirteen in number, and had an annual revenue amounting to 106 l. 15 s. 1 d. This town has a small market on  
Tues-

Tuesdays, and the greatest fair in England, on the 10th of October, for saddle and draught horses. It has also another fair, on the 2d of September, for the same, but it is much less considerable.

LAPLEY, a village about three miles west by north of Penkridge, had an alien priory of Black friars, from the abbey of St. Remigius at Rheims, founded in the reign of Edward the Confessor, by Algarus, earl of Chester. After the dissolution, it came into the family of the Brooks, but what was its value we are not told.

Four miles south of Penkridge is BREWOOD, a pretty little town, seated on the river Penk, nine miles south-south-west of Stafford. The people here have still the custom of adorning their wells with boughs and flowers, especially upon processioning days. This custom is derived from the popish times, when this respect was paid to such wells, as were eminent for the cure of particular diseases, especially on the Saints days, when people diverted themselves with music and dancing, and had cakes and ale. On the 4th of November, in the year 1678, an earthquake happened at this town, which came with a rumbling noise, like distant thunder. It began about eleven at night, and continued till two in the morning, in which time there were three considerable shocks; and the following night there was another, but more moderate. This town has a free-school, with a market on Tuesdays, and a fair on the 19th of September, for horses and horned cattle.

At Brewood was a small Benedictine nunnery, in the reign of Richard I. which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and had a revenue which was valued at the dissolution at 11 l. 1 s. 6 d. per ann.

At HILTON, about three miles south-east of Breewood, Henry de Audley, founded in the year 1223,  
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an abbey of Benedictine monks, which was valued at the dissolution, at 89 l. 10 s. 1 d. per annum.

There is a particular service enjoined to be performed by the lord of the neighbouring manor of Essington to the lord of the manor of Hilton; by which the former is to bring a goose every New-year's day, and drive it, at least three times round the fire, in the hall at Hilton, while Jack of Hilton is blowing the fire. This Jack of Hilton is a little hollow image of brass, about twelve inches high, which leans upon its left knee, and holds its right hand upon its head. It has a little hole in the mouth, just sufficient to admit a great pin's head, and water is poured into it by a hole in its back, which is afterwards stopped up. This image being set on a strong fire, the air evaporates through a hole at the mouth, with a constant blast, blowing the fire very strongly. After the lord of the manor of Essington has driven the goose round the fire as above-mentioned, he or his bailiff, is to bring it to the table, and to receive a dish of meat from the lord Hilton, for his own mess. This service was actually performed about one hundred and forty years ago, but we do not hear any thing of it since. Of the origin of this ancient custom, we do not find any tolerable account.

WOLVERHAMPTON is seated eight miles south of Brewood, thirty-two north of Worcester, and one hundred and thirty-four north-west of London, and was anciently called Hampton; but a priory being erected there in the year 996, by Wulfruna, the widow of Anthelm, duke of Northampton, and sister to king Edgar, it was afterwards called Wulfruna's Hampton, which has been corrupted into its present name. Here she placed a dean and prebendaries, with suitable officers; but, on account of the wickedness of these prebendaries,



bendaries, who could not be reclaimed, an attempt was made to expel them, but it could not be effected, as it was apprehended the pope would not consent to it. The church of this priory is now the collegiate church of the place, and has a tower with seven bells. The pulpit, which is very ancient, is of stone; and in the church-yard is an old stone cross. The chief manufacturers of this town are locksmiths, who excel in that branch of business; and locks have been made in the town, that sold for above 20 l. each; they make six, eight, or more locks in a suit, and order the keys in such a manner, that none of them shall open any other lock but its own; and at the same time, make one master-key that shall open them all: they also make almost all other works in brass and iron. A market for iron-work is held here weekly, some of which is made in the town, but the chief part is brought to market by the farmers, several miles round; for it is said, in the adjacent country, many farms have one or more forges, and that the farmers carry on two very different businesses, and work at their forges as smiths, when they are not employed in the fields; and all their work is brought to market, where it is bought up by the great tradesmen, who send it to London.

The town stands upon a high ground: it is populous and well built; and the streets are handsomely paved. From the hill, on which the town is situated, run four weak springs, which is the only water they have to supply this large and populous place. Besides the above collegiate church, a chapel was built there by an act of parliament, which passed in the year 1755, and there is here also a meeting-house of dissenters. Here is a charity-school erected and endowed by Stephen Jennings, a merchant, and lord mayor of London,

don, in 1608, who was a native of this town. Here are also a charity-school for fifty boys, who are both taught and cloathed; and another for forty girls, who are also cloathed. This town has a market on Wednesdays, and a fair on the 10th of July, for all sorts of commodities.

WEDNESFIELD, upwards of two miles north-east of Wolverhampton, is remarkable for a signal victory, obtained by king Edward the Elder, over the Danes, in which two kings, besides two earls and other noblemen, were slain. The barrow, or, as it is here called, the Low, raised on this account, is in a ground called South Low-field, and there is another called North Low-field, where the barrow is quite levelled. These were, doubtless, the places of burial of the kings or noblemen slain in this battle.

PATSHULL, or PATSHALL, is five miles west of Wolverhampton, and is a seat of the Astleys. The house is built with stone, and the gardens about it are exceeding beautiful, and adorned with very fine water-works.

At PATTINGHAM, a village two miles south by east of Patshall, was found, in the year 1700, a large torquis, or chain of fine gold, two feet in length, and weighing three pounds two ounces: the links were curiously wreathed, and so very flexible, that it would fit several sizes. The torquis was worn both by the ancient Britons and the Romans.

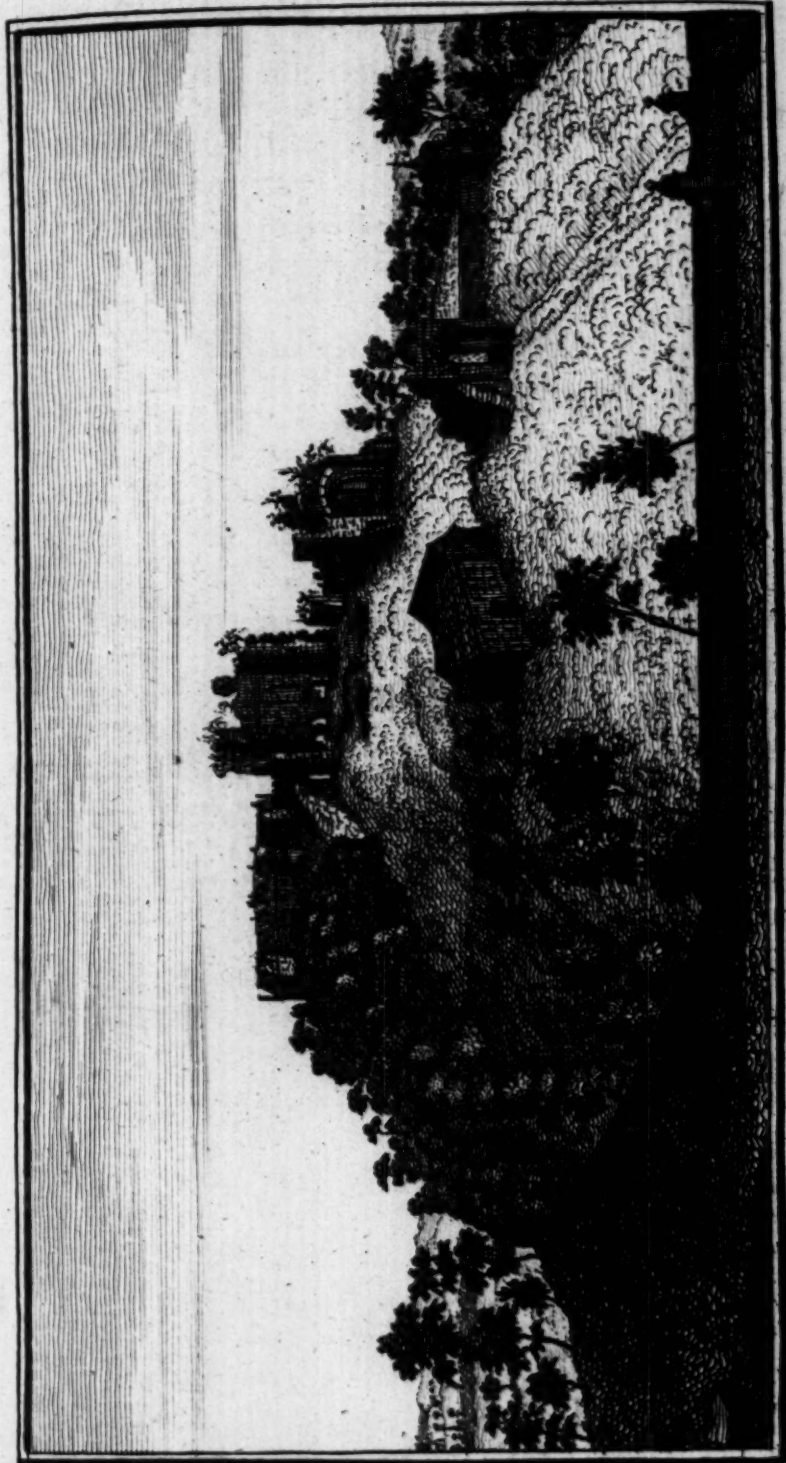
At STATFOLD, near Wolverhampton, is a church, which was repaired-upwards of a century ago; and the inhabitants affirm, that the uppermost stone of the steeple being thrown by one of the workmen, from the pinnacle into the church-yard, broke in two pieces, and discovered a living toad in the center of it, which died soon after its being exposed to the air.

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Three miles south of Wolverhampton is SENGLEY, where a prodigious trade is carried on by the blacksmiths, in working irons for ploughs, carts, horse-shoes, fire-irons, bolts and hinges for doors, bars for windows, buckles and nails; and some have computed, that no less than two thousand men and boys are employed here in these several manufactures. There are so many excellent coals in this neighbourhood, that pieces of ground have been sold for 100 l. an acre.

Five miles south of Wolverhampton is DUDLEY castle, which is seated upon a high hill, and was a building of great extent, with trenches about it, cut out of the rock. A great part of the walls are standing, which shew that it was once a fine structure, and particularly a lofty tower on the south side, from whence there is a prospect into five English counties and part of Wales. The castle chiefly stood upon the top of the hill, but some buildings which belonged to it were placed upon the declivity. Of the ruins of this structure we have given an engraved view. It was built by Dudo, or Dodo, a Saxon, about the year 700, and successively fell into the hands of several families, but now belongs to the lord Dudley and Ward, who has a noble seat formed out of the ruins of the castle. In the hall is a table, all of one entire plank, which, before its being fitted up there, was twenty-five yards in length, and one yard in breadth; but being too long for the hall, seven yards nine inches of it were cut off, and made a table for the hall of a neighbouring gentleman.

At Dudley castle Gervase Painell, lord of this manor, in obedience to the will of Ralph his father, founded a monastery before the year 1161, and filled it with Cluniac monks from Wenlock in Shropshire, to which this house was accounted  
a cell



*The South View of Dudley Castle, in the County of Stafford.*





a cell. It was dedicated to St. James, and at the suppression, its revenues were valued at 36 l. 3 s. per annum. The town of Dudley lies near the castle, but is in a small district, included in Worcestershire, though surrounded by this county.

At ABBOTS castle, five miles south-west of Wolverhampton, upon the borders of Shropshire, is an ancient fortification, which stands on a high promontory, and is supposed to have been British. It has a steep ridge for half a mile together, with hollows cut in the ground, over which tents are thought to have been pitched.

At the village of KINVER, nine miles south of Wolverhampton, is an ancient fortification of an oblong form, the longest side about three hundred yards; and in a piece of pasture ground near this village is a large stone six feet high, and twelve feet in circumference, called by the inhabitants Battle-Stone, or Bolt-stone. On the top of it is a rude resemblance of three heads. Some suppose, this stone to have been a British deity, and others imagine, that it was set up by the ancient Britons, as a memorial of a battle fought in this place.

Four miles to the eastward of Wolverhampton is WALSHALL, or WALSALL, a town that stands on the side of a hill, by a river of the same name, about eight miles south by west of Litchfield, and carries on a considerable manufacture of bridle-bits, stirrups, buckles, and thelike. It is a corporation town governed by a mayor and other magistrates. On the eve of Epiphany is a dole of one penny given to all persons residing in the borough, and all the villages belonging to it; as well strangers who happen to be there, as inhabitants. It was bestowed by Thomas Moseley, an inhabitant of this town, who hearing a child cry for bread, on the eve of the Epiphany, was so con-

cerned, that he made a vow that none should want bread in this town or its liberties upon that day ever after; and immediately settled his manor of Bascoo, in Warwickshire, upon the corporation, to maintain the dole: but others affirm, that it was owing to an endowment appointed to be performed in the parish church here, and the abbey of Hales Owen, for praying for his and his wife's souls; but since the dissolution of religious houses, their share was converted into this dole. We have already taken notice of the iron mines here, and of the liquor called Mush, contained in the iron stone, of which the miners are so fond. This town has a good market on Tuesdays, with three fairs, held on the 24th of February, and Whitsun-Tuesday, for horses and horned cattle; and on the Tuesday before the 10th of October, for horses, cattle, cheese and onions.

Three miles to the south of Walshall is WEDNESBURY, commonly called WEDGBURY, a village seated near the river Tame. It was formerly fortified by Adelfleda, governess of the Mercians. But at the time of the conquest, it was a demesne of the crown. There is a vast quantity of excellent pit-coal very near it, which some prefer, even to cannel-coal, it burning away with a sweet bright flame, into white ashes. The coal-pits have been, and are still, so numerous, and the ground so undermined, that there have been instances of waggons, with all the horses, sinking down at once; and even in the town itself houses have sunk under ground. The coal-pits here sometimes take fire of themselves, which is thought to be owing to the great quantity of sulphur contained in the coals. Here is also found that sort of iron ore called blond metal, which is only fit for making horseshoes, hammers, and ordinary nails. Vessels of several sorts are made here,

here, which are painted with a reddish kind of earth, called slip, dug up in this neighbourhood.

HARBORNE, is a village six miles south by east of Wednesbury, and two miles south-west of Birmingham in Warwickshire. In this place Dr. Plot met with a sort of earth, like bole armenic. In this parish one James Sands was an inhabitant, who was remarkable for his vigour and longevity; he died in the year 1625 at one hundred and forty years of age, and his wife lived to be one hundred and twenty.

At SANDWELL, a village at a small distance, was a priory of Benedictine monks, founded by William, the son of Guy de Offney, about the beginning of the reign of Richard the First, and in the year 1190. It was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and was suppressed by cardinal Wolsey, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, when its revenues were valued at 38 l. 8 s. 7 d. a year.

The following remarkable persons, besides those we have already mentioned, were born in this county.

Reginald Pole, archbishop of Canterbury, and cardinal, was descended of the blood royal of England, he being a younger son of Sir Richard Pole, lord Montague, cousin-german to king Henry the Seventh, and of Margaret, his wife, daughter of George, duke of Clarence, younger brother to king Edward the Fourth. He was born, as is supposed, at Stowerton castle in Staffordshire, in the year 1500. Having finished his studies at Magdalen college in Oxford, he entered into orders, and obtained several considerable preferments in the church. He was, some time after, sent abroad by his kinsman, king Henry the Eighth, to complete his education in the foreign universities, and was



allowed by that prince a very handsome pension, to enable him to live in a manner agreeable to his dignity. He accordingly spent five years at Padua, and in other Italian seminaries; and returning to England in 1525, was received by the king with the utmost cordiality. This run of court favour, however, was but of short continuance. The affair of the divorce, occasioned first a difference, and afterwards an irreparable breach between the king and his relation, who withdrew to Italy, where he wrote his celebrated piece, entitled, *De Unitate Ecclesiastica*; a work, which provoked the king to such a degree, that he stripped him of his pension, deprived him of all his preferments, and even caused an act of attainder to be passed against him. These losses and sufferings, however, were, in some measure, compensated by the bounty of the pope, who created him a cardinal, and employed him, sometimes as his nuncio, sometimes as his legate, in the most important negotiations. Upon the death of pope Paul the Third, he was twice elected to succeed that pontiff: but he refused both the elections; the one, as being too hasty, and without due deliberation, and the other, because it was done in the night-time. This unexampled delicacy disoblged his friends, who desisted from making any farther attempts in his favour; and the bishop of Paletrina, by the name of Julius the Third, was placed upon the papal throne. In the reign of queen Mary, he was invited over to England, where, upon the death of Cranmer, he was made archbishop of Canterbury, and absolving the kingdom from the interdict under which it had long lain, he re-admitted it into the bosom of the Romish church, and had a capital share in all the transactions of that short but bloody reign. It must be confessed, however, in justice to his memory, that the

the cruelties then exercised against the Protestants, were less owing to his councils than to those of Gardiner and Bonner, who, as they were the chief instruments of these barbarities, ought certainly to bear the greatest part of the blame. He survived queen Mary but a few hours. Her majesty expired November the 17th, 1558. The cardinal died early the next morning, and was interred, with great funeral pomp, on the north side of Thomas a Becket's chapel, in the cathedral of Canterbury. Besides the work above-mentioned, he wrote a book, intitled, *De Summo Pontifice*; another called, *De ejusdem Potestate*; and a third named, *De Concilio Tridentino*.

Samuel Johnson, a divine, remarkable both for his writings and sufferings, in the seventeenth century, was born in 1649, in the county of Stafford, and educated, first at St. Paul's school in London, and afterwards at Trinity college in Cambridge. Having entered into holy orders, he was presented, in 1670, to the rectory of Corringham in the hundreds of Essex. He afterwards became chaplain to the celebrated lord Russell; and in the latter end of the reign of king Charles the Second, he exerted himself strenuously in the promoting of the Exclusion-bill, and in supporting the other measures of the Commons. It was with this view that he wrote his *Julian the Apostate*, and his *Julian's Arts to undermine and extirpate Christianity*. These two pieces exposed him to the resentment of the court, who commenced a prosecution against him, in consequence of which he was condemned to pay a fine of five hundred marks, and to be committed to prison till the money should be paid. In the reign of king James the Second, while the forces were encamped upon Hounslow-heath, he published *An humble and hearty address to all the English Protestants*

*in the present army.* This drew upon him a still more severe prosecution than the former. He was condemned to stand in the pillory in three different places, to pay a fine of five hundred marks, and to be whipped from Newgate to Tyburn. The execution of this sentence he bore with unexampled fortitude, after having been degraded and deprived by the ecclesiastical court. He continued to oppose, with unabated ardour, the measures of the government, till the happy revolution; when he obtained from king William, a pension of 300 l. for two lives, together with a 1000 l. in money, and a place of 100 l. a year for his son. Thus gratified, he proceeded to write, with his usual spirit, in defence of the new establishment; and some of the pieces which he published on this subject, inflamed to such a degree the resentment of his enemies, that an attempt was actually made to deprive him of his life. Seven assassins broke into his apartment, and gave him two desperate wounds, from which, however, he happily recovered; and lived till May, 1703, when he died. His works were published, after his death, in one volume in folio.

William Woolaston, a learned and ingenious writer, in the beginning of the present century, was born, March the 26th, 1659, at Coton Clanford in Staffordshire, and educated at Sidney-college in Cambridge. During the earlier part of his life he laboured under many difficulties; for being naturally of a timorous and bashful disposition, he was but ill qualified to push his way in the world; and his father being but in indifferent circumstances, was very little able to give him any great assistance. He therefore acted, for some time, as usher in the school of Birmingham, and accepted a small lecture (for he had taken deacon's orders) at about two miles distance from that town.

town. Upon the death, however, of his near relation, Mr. Woolaston of Shenton, he succeeded to the estate of that gentleman; and repairing, soon after, to London, and entering into the married state, he took up his residence in the Charter-house square. There he continued, during the remainder of his days, to live in a very quiet and retired manner; amusing himself alternately with company and with books. Diffident of his own abilities, and anxious for his future fame, he burned with his own hands, a little before his death, the greatest part of his manuscripts. But his principal performance, and that for which he is chiefly here mentioned, his *Religion of Nature delineated*, first published in 1722. Mr. Woolaston died on the 29th of October, 1724.

Elijah Fenton, an ingenious poet in the present century, was descended from an ancient family, and born, towards the latter end of king Charles the Second's reign, at Shelton, near Newcastle, in Staffordshire. Having finished his studies at Jesus college, Cambridge, he attended the earl of Orrery, as his secretary, to Flanders; and returning to England in 1705, he became master of the free-school of Sevenoak in Kent. This laborious employment, however, he very soon quitted, at the request of lord Bolingbroke, who promised to provide for him; but before his lordship was able to perform his promise, he was himself obliged to abandon his country. In this extremity, Mr. Fenton had recourse to his literary abilities; and collecting his poems, by the advice of his friends, he published a volume of them in 1717. About the same time he was taken into the family of Mr. secretary Craggs, in order to read the classics to him; and that amiable statesman would certainly have made his fortune, had he not been cut off by the small-pox, in the prime of his age.



Thus thrown once more upon the wide world, Mr. Fenton had again recourse to his poetical talents; and having completed a tragedy, which he had sometime before begun, he brought it upon the stage in 1723, under the title of *Mariamne*. With the profits of this play he discharged all his debts, which amounted to little less than one thousand pounds; and being invited by lady Trumball, relict of Sir William Trumball, to undertake the education of her son, he accepted the offer: and settling in that family, continued to reside there during the remaining part of his life. He died, July the 13th, 1730, at East-Hampstead park; and was interred in the parish church of that place, under a stone, inscribed with an admirable epitaph written by Mr. Pope. Of this ingenious poet he was a particular favourite; and he assisted him considerably in translating the *Odyssy*.

S U F-



## S U F F O L K.

**S**UFFOLK, which signifies South-folk, or Southern people, was so called by the Saxons, on account of its being inhabited by the southern branch of the East-Angles, and to express its situation, with respect to the northern people of that nation, in the county of Norfolk. This is a maritime county, bounded on the east by the German ocean; on the north, by Norfolk, from which it is separated by the rivers, the Little Ouse, and the Waveny; on the west by Cambridgeshire; and on the south by Essex, from which it is divided by the river Stour. It extends fifty-two miles in length from east to west; the mean breadth from north to south is about twenty-eight miles; it is one hundred and ninety-six in circumference, and contains about 148,160 acres. Stow market, which is seated nearly in the centre of the county, is at the distance of seventy-three miles north-east of London.

This county, at the invasion of the Romans, was part of the territory inhabited by the Iceni; and Mr. Cambden, from the similitude of the names of several villages, is of opinion, that it was the district, in which they principally resided. Here were two Roman stations on the western side of the county, upon the military way called Ermine-street, and the remains of fortifications, barrows, and Roman coins have been found here

in as great plenty as in the other parts of England. After the Romans forsook the island, the Saxons were invited over by Vortigern the British king, to assist him and his people against the Scots and Picts, and by their help, he soon drove out the enemy; but they themselves refusing to retire, settled in the kingdom; and under them, the Icenian territories became the kingdom of the East-Angles. In the time of the Danish invasions, Hungar and Hubba, two Danish generals, advanced with an army into this county; on which Edmund, king of the East-Angles, first retired to Thetford, which they soon plundered, and he flying into Framlingham castle, they besieged and took it. He, however, escaped into a wood, where being found, they tied him to a stake, and shot him to death with arrows. After the Danes were gone, his body was interred in the church of Bury, from him called St. Edmundsbury. Afterwards Swaine, king of Denmark, advanced into this county, and spared neither the towns nor the churches, unless redeemed by the inhabitants with great sums of money. When William the Conqueror was settled on the throne, he divided the manors of this county among his officers.

The air of this county is pure, pleasant, and healthful, not only in the inland parts, but on the sea shore because there are no marshy grounds; for the beach being shelly and sandy, shoots off the sea, and prevents there being any stagnated water and stinking mud.

Water is very plentiful all over the county, for there are not only rivers in almost every part, but a great number of fine springs and rivulets. The principal rivers are the Stour, the Lesser Ouse, the Waveney, the Deben, the Orwel, the Ald, and the Blith.

The

The Stour, which is one of the principal rivers, runs on the southern bounds of the county, and at last falls into Orwell-haven, to the north of Harwich.

The Little Ouse rises near Blow-Norton, on the northern edge of the county, and running by Thetford, Branden, and other places, falls into the Great Ouse.

The Waveny likewise rises near Blow Norton, not far from the spring head of the Little Ouse, but runs a contrary way, that is, east-north-east, passing by Dis, Harleston, and Beckles, till at length it falls into the Yare, near Yarmouth.

The Deben rises near Mendlesham, and running south-east, and passing by Debenham and Woodbridge, two other market towns of this county, falls into the German sea, eleven miles south-east of Woodbridge.

The river Orwell, or Gipping, rises not far from Mendlesham, and running south-east, passes by Ipswich, to which it is navigable, by ships of considerable burthen; and at the distance of ten miles from that town, discharges itself into the German ocean, together with the Stour, both rivers forming one large mouth.

The Ald rises near Framlingham, and running south-east, passes by Aldborough and Orford, and falls into the German sea, a few miles from the last mentioned town.

The Blith has its source near Laxfield, from whence running east-north-east to Hazleworth, it passes from thence, almost directly east, to Southwold, where it falls into the German sea.

There are other less considerable rivers in this county; as the Ore, the Berdon, the Bret, the Bourn, and the Larke.

They have no coal pits in this county, and consequently have no coals, but what are brought up



the rivers; however, this defect is supplied, in the midland parts, by their underwoods. As for those towns that lie near the sea, they are readily supplied with coals from Newcastle, as well as those that lie near the navigable rivers; insomuch that there is no great want of fuel any where.

The soil of Suffolk is different, in different parts of the county; and may be considered as naturally consisting of three different sorts of land, viz. the sand-land, the wood-land, and the fielding. The sand-land part is a tract, which reaches from the river Orwell, by the sea-coast, to Yarmouth, and is pretty nearly separated from the wood-land, by the great road, leading from Ipswich to Yarmouth. This part may also be divided into the marsh, arable, and heath lands. The marsh land is naturally fruitful, feeding great numbers of sheep and oxen; and sometimes, when plowed, affords greater crops of corn than any other land in the county. That part which is arable, is, in many places, naturally good for tillage, and produces large crops of all sorts of corn; and where it seems in a manner barren, is fit for improvement, by chalk, clay, and crag, which last is found by experience, to be preferable to the other two, and may be had cheaper. The heathy part, commonly used for sheep-walks, contained about one third of the sand-lands, before the discovery of crag; but many hundred acres of them are now converted into good arable land, by that excellent manure. This crag, or craigs, consist of an infinite number of bivalve and turbinated shells, lying in veins, at a great depth, on the sides of hills, and it is remarkable of one sort of the turbinated shells, that their mouths open to the left hand, whereas most of that species open to the right.

The

The wood-land part extends from the north-east corner of the hundred of Blything, to the south-west corner of the county at Haverhill. This part is generally dirty, but very rich and fruitful. Here the Suffolk butter is made, which is justly esteemed equal to the best in England; but those who make good butter, must of course make bad cheese; and therefore the generality of Suffolk cheese, is well known to be as remarkably bad as the butter is good; but the few who make little or no butter, make as good cheese as any in Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, or any other parts of the kingdom, and therefore it sells for ten pence or twelve pence a pound, and is little, if at all, inferior to that at Stilton.

The fielding part chiefly consists of sheep-walks, yet in many places affords good corn.

The author of the Farmer's letters observes, that in passing into Suffolk by the way of Stoke and Thetford, he found a vast quantity of land uncultivated, which surprized him the more, as he was informed that marle was to be found in many places, where no use is made of it. But that in the neighbourhood of Thetford is a complete farm, of near two thousand acres, gained from an old sheep-walk. The soil is very sandy, but marle and clay have rendered it so fertile, that, in years not remarkably dry, it has as fine crops of rye, coleseed, and oats, as land of five times the rent, yields in heavier soils. On this farm is also sown some hundred acres of sainfoyn, which thrives finely, and yields considerable crops of hay. This single farm employs forty-five horses, nine servants, and in harvest, fifty in the field. Nine hundred sheep, and twenty-four cows are kept upon it; and all this, says our author, on a tract of land, which, seven years ago, was the habitation of nothing but a flock of sheep, not  
more

more considerable than what is now kept on the remaining sheep-walk and the artificial grasses. The marle dug on this farm has proved that it is not only the fat soapy kind, which is of great benefit, for this is in general, a hard chalky substance, mingled with extraneous kinds of earth, and to appearance, a very bad sort; whence many farmers asserted, that it would do no good; but they were greatly mistaken.

The farmers of this county seldom use above two horses to a plough, and always plow up an acre a day in their stiffest fields.

At Tostock, a village six miles from Bury, is a farm cultivated in a very masterly manner. There is nothing above mediocrity in the husbandry of the neighbouring farmers, but this gentleman has greatly improved upon their practice. His soil is a light gravel, and the first thing he did with it, was to dig and spread a hundred loads of loam and clay, over all his arable fields, and then throw them into a regular course of crops, viz. 1. turnips. 2. barley. 3. clover. 4. wheat, and he raises exceeding fine crops of each. He plows four, five, and six times for turnips; and sows and harrows at the same time, with a very curious machine, of which the reader may see a particular description in the above ingenious work, entitled *A Six Weeks tour through the southern counties*, from which work we have borrowed these observations. This machine sheds the seeds infinitely more regularly than the nicest hand, and the seed never fails for want of rain, when sown after four o'clock in the afternoon. This farmer hoes the plants out twice, and applies them to the stall-feeding of beasts. He gives the turnip land three earths for barley and oats, and gets very clean crops of five, six, and even seven quarters per acre. The succeeding crop of  
clover,

clover, he generally mows twice for hay, and values each crop, on a medium, at 2l. 10s. per acre. The clover-lay he breaks up with one earth the first year, and harrows in wheat, of which he raises on a medium, four and a half, or five quarters per acre.

It is to be observed, that besides the above mentioned claying, this gentleman every year manures all his turnip-land, with twelve, fifteen, or twenty loads per acre, of farm-yard dung, which he likewise manages in a very sensible manner. About October he carries in and spreads, equally over his yard, two hundred loads of mould, generally loam, upon which he fodders all his beasts, with the straw of the crop and the clover-hay; by which means all the urine of the cattle is soaked up, and the gutters of the stables and ox-stalls are all laid into it; and when the winter is over, he stirs the whole up together, carefully mixing it; and then it is in good order for the land. He generally doubles the quantity brought in. The expences of this method, says our author, appear at first sight to be high, but are not so in reality; for it is common to carry out the dung, and mix it with turf before it is spread: now, in point of labour, there is no difference; but was chalk, marle, or turf used instead of loam, it would be an infinite improvement.

The uncommon plants growing wild in this county are the following.

Wild fothernwood, or fine-leaved mugwort, *Abrotanum campestre*, C. B. Park. Ger. At a place called Elden, twelve miles beyond Newmarket, in the way towards Lynne, on the banks of the corn-fields, and by the way-sides abundantly, for a mile in length and breadth.

Yellow



Yellow-berried holley, *Agrifolium baccis luteis nondum descriptum*, P. B. At Wiston in this county.

Woolly-headed thistle, *Carduus tomentosus corona fratrum*, Park. Near Clare.

Fine-leaved bastard-parsley, with a small purplish flower, *Arvensis echinata parvo flore*, C. B. Amongst the corn at Notley, and at many other places.

Golden-flowered Samphire, *Crithmum crysanthemum*, Park. Ger. On the bank of the river just above Fulbridge.

*Gramen dactylon latiore folio*, C. B. Plentifully in the plowed fields about Elden.

Spanish catchfly, *Lychnis viscosa flore muscosa*, C. B. *Sesamoides salamanticum magnum*, Ger. In and about the gravel-pits on the north side of New-market: also by the way-sides all along from Barton mills to Thetford in Norfolk.

Night-flowering campion, *Lychnis noctiflora*, C. B. Park. Among the corn about Saxmundham, and between the two windmills and Warren-lodge at Mewell.

The fresh-water soldier, or water-aloe, *Militaris aizoides*, Ger. In the lake, in Loving-land.

English sea-pease, *Pisum marinum*, Ger. *alium maritimum Britannicum*, Park. On the stone beach between Orford and Aldborough, called the Shingle, especially on the farther end toward Orford, abundantly.

Long-leaved water-hemlock, or parsnep, *Sium alterum olusatrici facie*. Ad. Lob. Ger. Emac. In the lake of Loving-land.

Knotted trefoil with round heads, *Trifolium cum glomerulis ad caulum nodos rotundis*. In gravelly places about Saxmundham.

Whiteflowered knotted trefoil, with oblong rough heads. *Trifolium flosculis albis, in glomerulis oblongis*

*gis asperis, cauliculis proximè adnatis. An trifolium rectum flore glomerato cum unguiculis, J. B.* At New-market, where the *Sesamoides Salamaniticum* grows, and in other places.

Hedge-hog trefoil, with rundles resembling a thin segment of a cone. *Trifolium cochleatum modiolis spinosis.* At Orford, on the sea bank close by the quay, plentifully.

Upright speedwell with divided leaves, *Veronica erecta, foliis laciniatis.* At Mewell, between the two windmills and the Warren lodge; and in the gravel-pits two miles beyond Barton-mills.

Common Roman-nettle, *Urtica Romana*, Ger. Park. About Aldburgh, and elsewhere on the sea-coast, plentifully.

Small mild white-flowered stone-crop, *Sedum minimum non acre flore albo.* In the more barren grounds all along between Yarmouth and Dunwich. This differs specifically from the common pepper-wort, and not in the colour of the flower only.

This county, in general, is divided into two parts; the first called the Franchise or Liberty of St. Edmund, which contains the western part of the county; and the second called the Geldable land, contains the eastern part. Each of these furnishes a distinct grand-jury at the county assizes. In the Franchises the issues and forfeitures are paid to the lords of the liberties, and in the Geldable part they are paid to the king. There are likewise two other general divisions of the county, into High Suffolk and Low Suffolk, and it is subdivided into twenty-two hundreds. It is seated in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Norwich, and has five hundred and seventy-five parishes, and the following 29 market towns, Aldborough, Beckles, Bildeston, Brandon, Bud-  
desdale,

desdale, Bungay, Bury St. Edmunds, Clare, Debenham, Dunwich, Eye, Framlingham, Hadley, Halesworth, Haveril, Ipswich, Ixworth, Lavenham, Leostoff, Mendlesham, Mildenhall, Neyland, Needham, Orford, Saxmundham, Southwold, Stow-market, Sudbury, and Woodbridge. Suffolk sends sixteen members to parliament, namely, two knights of the shire, and two burgessees for each of the following boroughs, St. Edmundsbury, Ipswich, Dunwich, Orford, Aldborough, Eye, and Sudbury.

We shall enter this county from Essex, by the London road, and passing Higham bridge over the Stour, shall proceed to IPSWICH; this is a corruption of its old Saxon name Gyperswic, which it received from its situation on the river Gipping. It is situated eighteen miles north-east of Colchester, fifty-four south-west of Yarmouth, twelve north-west of Harwich, and sixty-eight north-east of London. To the strangers who enter the town, either by the present London road, or by that from Yarmouth, it seems to stand low; but when a traveller approaches the town by the ancient London road, which was over Cattuvade and Bowen bridges, upon Wherstead hill, he views it to more advantage, situated on the side of a hill, with a south aspect, declined by a gradual and easy descent to the quay, where the foot of it is washed by the Orwell. The hills which rise above it, to the north and east, contribute greatly to its convenience, not only as they shelter the town from bleak and inclement winds, but as they are well stored with springs of excellent water; for those from Caldwell hills flow in such abundance, that the greatest part of the town is supplied from them.

Ipswich is a town of great antiquity, and was formerly surrounded with a rampart and ditch, which

which were broken down by the Danes, who twice pillaged the town, within the space of ten years, that is, about the year of our Lord 991, and 1000. There was also a castle here, which is now entirely demolished, so that no remains of it are to be found. However, some are of opinion, it stood in the adjoining parish of Westerfield, because there appears some remains of a castle, but others will not allow it. This town is said to have had 21 parish churches, twelve of which still remain, besides two chapels in the corporation liberty, and several meeting-houses. It is a neat, well built, populous town, encompassed by the Orwell, or Gipping, in the form of a half moon, and had charters and a mint, as early as the reign of king John; but is at present governed under a charter of king Charles the Second, by two bailiffs, a recorder, a high-steward, twelve portmen, of whom four are justices of the peace; a town-clerk, twenty-four chief constables, of whom two are coroners; and the twelve seniors are headboroughs; a treasurer and two chamberlains, to collect the revenues of the town. The corporation has also fifteen livery servants, viz. five musicians, four serjeants at mace, two bea-  
 dles, a common cryer, a water-bailiff, a jailor, and a bridewell-keeper. The town enjoys several considerable privileges, as the passing of fines and recoveries, trying both civil and criminal causes, and even holds pleas of the crown. The assize of wine, bread, and beer, is also appointed by the magistrates. The corporation has an admiralty jurisdiction, and is entitled to all waifs, strays, and goods cast on shore, within that jurisdiction, which includes all the coast of Suffolk, and extends on the Essex coast, beyond Harwich. No freeman can be compelled to serve on juries out of the town, or be obliged to bear any office  
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for the king, except that of sheriff of the county. Here is a town-hall and a council-chamber; a shire-hall for the county sessions; and in a part of an ancient monastery, is held the quarter-sessions for the Ipswich division; and another part of the same building is converted to a jail.

Ipswich has a large market place, in the center of which is a handsome cross; and in it are commodious shambles, built at the expence of cardinal Wolsey, who was a butcher's son in this town. The cardinal also began a college, upon the foundation of a priory of Black canons, founded about the end of the reign of king Henry the Second, by Thomas de Lacy, and Alice his wife. It was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, but suppressed in 1527 by the above cardinal, who upon the site of this priory, founded his college for a dean, twelve secular canons, eight clerks, and eight choristers, together with a grammar-school, which he designed as a nursery to his college in Oxford. This noble foundation was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, but was scarce brought to perfection before the disgrace of that prelate occasioned its being suppressed.

This town has a convenient quay, a custom-house, and a stone bridge over the Orwell. Here is a free-school, with a good library, and five charity-schools for poor children; one in Christ's hospital for twenty blue-coat boys, who are found in cloaths, meat, drink, washing and lodging; taught to read and work, and then bound apprentice, chiefly in the sea service. Another for sixty grey-coat boys, who are cloathed, taught, and bound out to sea, or mean trades. Another for twenty-four blue-coat girls, who are cloathed, taught to read, to knit and sew, and are fitted out for services. Another for sixteen red-sleeve boys, who are cloathed, taught, and bound apprentices;

prentices; and another for sixteen green-sleeve boys, who are also cloathed, taught, and bound out: this last school is supported by the dissenters. Here are also two hospitals, one for lunaticks, called Christ's hospital, and another founded by Mr. Henry Tooley in 1556, for old men and women; a charitable foundation for the relief of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen, set on foot in 1704; several alms-houses and a workhouse.

The trade of this town formerly consisted chiefly in the manufacture of broad-cloth, and other woollen-cloth, which was carried on so largely, that all the towns and villages, for many miles round, were employed in it; and from this trade, many of the best estates of the county were raised; but about the middle of the last century, the manufactory began to decline, and dwindled by degrees, till it totally ceased. The chief trade at present, is in corn; and the business of malting, in particular, is carried on to such a degree, that the Ipswich malsters use more corn than the neighbouring country, improved as it is, will supply, whence of late years they have been frequently obliged to import barley from the coast of Norfolk. The town has three yards constantly employed in ship-building, and there are above one hundred and fifty sail belonging to this port. A considerable trade to Greenland is carried on from this town.

On the skirts of this town is the seat of Thomas Fonnereau, Esq; The house, which is built in the ancient taste, was originally a priory, but is very commodious. The green and park are a great addition to the pleasantness of the town, the inhabitants being allowed to divert themselves in it, with walking, playing at cricket, &c. It contains some of the most beautiful deer in the kingdom, they being of a fine white colour, spotted

spotted with black; and these being mixed with the fallow-deer, make a very agreeable variety.

Indeed, at Ipswich are more gentry than in any other town in the county, except St. Edmundsbury; and this is esteemed one of the best places in England, for families that have but small incomes, on account of the easy house rent, good company, and plenty of all sorts of provisions. The many walks and rides, which abound with a variety of pleasing views, together with the goodness of the roads, in the environs of Ipswich, also contribute greatly towards rendering it agreeable. However entertaining the prospects into the country may be, they are far exceeded by those which the Orwell affords, it being bounded with high land on both sides, enriched and adorned with almost every object that can make a landscape agreeable, such as churches, gentlemens seats, woods, noble avenues, parks whose pales reach down to the water's edge, well stored with deer and other cattle, feeding in fine lawns, &c. all so happily disposed and diversified, that nature and art seem to have jointly contrived how they might most agreeably entertain and delight the eye. Such are the side views. When a passenger sails from Ipswich, and enters what is properly called Orwell-haven, the scene terminates on the right with a view of Harwich, and the high coast of Essex; on the left with Landguard fort, and the high land of Walton, and Felixstow cliffs behind it, with a prospect of the main ocean before him. As he returns to Ipswich, the scene closes with a distinct view of the town, displaying itself to advantage, and forming, as the river winds, a kind of half moon.

Here are five market days, Tuesdays and Thursdays, for butcher's meat, Wednesdays and Fridays for fish, and Saturday is a general market day

day for all sorts of provisions, cattle, &c. Here are also five fairs, one on Holy-rood day, old style, where much business is done in the articles of butter and cheese; another on the 4th of May, for toys and lean cattle; another on the 25th of July, which is not worth mentioning; and two fairs for cattle, held on the 18th and 19th of May, and on the 22d and 23d of August; at the last of which, vast numbers of lambs are constantly sold, to the amount of eighty, ninety, or sometimes a hundred thousand.

Besides the two religious foundations already mentioned in this town, here was a priory of Black canons of the order of St. Austin, founded before the year 1177, in a parish church dedicated to the Trinity, which at the suppression consisted of a prior and six or seven canons, who had estates valued at 88 l. 6 s. 9 d. per annum. Here was also an hospital for leprous persons, as early as the beginning of the reign of king John. It was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and there was afterwards annexed to it another house of lepers, called St. James's hospital. In the east part of the town was a convent of Black friars, founded about the end of the reign of Henry the Third. About the middle of the town was a house of Carmelite friars, founded by Sir Thomas de Loudham and others, about the year 1279: and in the west part of the town, was a church and convent, belonging to the friars minors, founded in the reign of king Edward the First, by Sir Robert Tiptot. The revenues of these last religious houses, at the time of the suppression, are not known.

Thomas Wolsey, a man, who, by the force of distinguished abilities, and a happy concurrence of circumstances, raised himself from a low condition, to the highest offices in the church and  
state,



state, was born, of mean parentage at Ipswich, in the year 1471. He had his education at the grammar school of his native place, and at Magdalen college in Oxford. He had begun to make a figure in the court of king Henry the Seventh, towards the latter end of that prince's reign; but his first introduction to the court of king Henry the Eighth, was owing to the recommendation of Fox, bishop of Winchester, who hoped he would prove a rival to the earl of Surry, who had eclipsed that prelate in the king's good graces. And, in one sense, indeed, he was not disappointed. Wolsey soon acquired such an ascendant over the king, that he supplanted both Surry in his favour, and Fox in his trust and confidence. From this time forward he rose, by quick and rapid steps, first to be king's chief favourite, and afterwards to be his sole and absolute minister. He was made bishop of Tournay in Flanders (which place the king had lately taken) cardinal of the holy Roman empire, by the title of cardinal of St. Cecile beyond the Tyber, bishop of Winchester, archbishop of York, and lord high chancellor of England. The revenue of these, and of other places which he held, was equal, it is said, to that of the king, and he spent it in a no less royal manner. His train consisted of eight hundred servants, many of whom were knights and gentlemen: some even of the nobility put their children into his family, as a place of education; and, in order to ingratiate them the more with their patron, allowed them to bear offices as his servants. He built the palace of Hampton-court, and that of York place in London, which was afterwards converted into a royal palace under the title of Whitehall. He was likewise a generous encourager of learning; and, by the public lectures, and the college of Christ-church, which he

he founded in Oxford, he contributed to promote every species of erudition. Not yet satisfied, however, with the high rank, to which he had attained, he aspired at a still higher : he stood twice candidate for the papal throne ; but miscarried in both his attempts, chiefly thro' the secret opposition of the emperor, Charles the Fifth, who had, nevertheless, promised to support his pretensions. Provoked at this disingenuous behaviour, Wolsey resolved to be revenged upon the emperor ; and with this view he promoted the divorce between his master and his consort, Catharine, who was sister to his imperial majesty. This affair, however, proved the cause, or at least, the occasion of Wolsey's own downfall. He incurred by it, at once, the resentment of the king, of Anne Boleyn, and of the queen : of the two first, for not having effected the divorce with sufficient expedition ; of the last, for having prosecuted it with so much spirit : and thus overwhelmed with an insupportable load of royal displeasure, and being, at the same time, undermined by the intrigues of his enemies, he was suddenly stript of all his employments and possessions, was banished from court, and arrested for high treason. Stunned with the violent blow he had already received, and dreading the still farther effects of his enemies malice, he was seized with a disorder, which turned to a dysentery, and put a period to his life at Leicester-abbey, on the 28th day of November, 1530. His last words are said to have been ; *had I but served God as diligently as I have served the king, he would not have thus given me over in my grey hairs.*

ORWELL HAVEN is a spacious harbour, about ten miles to the south-south-east of Ipswich, and its mouth is close to Harwich. For the defence of this harbour, Landgard fort was erected, and

is still maintained. Sometimes men of war come in and ride here, and from hence the packet boat sails for Holland.

Seven miles to the south-east of Ipswich is **WOODBIDGE**, a large town seated on the east side of a sandy hill, with a pleasant prospect down the river **Deben**, which falls into the sea at about ten miles distance. It took its name from a wooden bridge, built over a hollow way, to form a communication between two parks, separated by the road which leads from Woodbridge market-place towards Ipswich. The river, at its influx into the sea, is called Woodbridge haven, and is navigable up to the town, where there are two quays, one where the chief imports and exports are carried on, and where the fine Woodbridge salt is made, and lime-kiln quay, where formerly the Ludlow man of war was built. The church is a fine building, and has a handsome steeple. On the south side of it stood a priory of Black canons, founded by Sir Hugh Rous, to which one Hansard was also a benefactor; its revenues were valued at the dissolution at 50 l. 3 s. 5 d. per annum. The houses are pretty well built, particularly the market-place, in the midst of which is the shire hall, where the quarter-sessions for the liberty of St. Etheldred are kept, and under it is the corn-market. Here is a free-grammar school for ten boys, the master of which is elected by the chief inhabitants of the parish. Here is also an alms-house for thirteen poor men and three women, founded in the year 1587, by Thomas Seckford, Esq; one of the masters of requests to queen Elizabeth. The three women were originally appointed as nurses to the poor men, one of whom is called governor, and has a salary of 13 l. 13 s. 4 d. a year, and each of the remaining twelve 9 l. 15 s. The men have also

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an outward garment, on which they wear a silver badge, with the Seckford arms. The three nurses live in a house, built close to the alms-house, and each of them is allowed 5l. 6s. 8d. a year. The governors of the alms-house are the master of the rolls, and the chief justice of the court of common pleas, for the time being. The town is conveniently seated for trade, both by land and water; it is famous for refining of salt, and carries on a good trade to London, and Newcastle upon Tyne, in butter, cheese and plank; and the Woodbridge pinks and hoys go to and from London once every week. The market is kept on Wednesdays, and they have two fairs, held on the 25th of March, and the 21st of September, for toys.

Fives miles north of Woodbridge is LETHERINGHAM, a village remarkable for a little priory of Black canons, founded by Sir John Baynel, or Bovile, which was a cell to St. Peter's at Ipswich, and its annual revenue was valued, at the dissolution, at 26l. 18s. 5d. It was granted by king Edward the Sixth to Mrs. Elizabeth Naunton, in whose family it has ever since continued. The priory has been converted into a good mansion house, in which is a noble gallery, adorned with several valuable pictures. The parish church, which formerly belonged to the priory, has some magnificent monuments.

Five miles north-east of Woodbridge is RENDLESHAM, said to have been thus called from king Rendulus. Here Redwald, king of the East-Angles, commonly kept his court, who, according to Bede, was the first of the English who received Christianity, and was baptized here. The palace, in which Rendulus kept his court, is thought to have stood in the place where Rendlesham house now stands, which was lately the seat of the Spencers, and is now



vested in her grace the dutchess of Hamilton and Brandon. In digging here about forty years ago, there was found an ancient crown, weighing about sixty ounces, which was thought to have belonged to Redwald, or some other king of the East-Angles; but it was sold and melted down.

WALTON is a village seated nine miles to the south of Woodbridge, near Orwell-haven, and had a strong castle, seated on a high hill, but it was demolished in the reign of Henry the Second; for the earl of Leicester landing with his Flemings in 1173, was received by Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk, then lord of the manor and castle of Walton; on which account it was afterwards ordered, that this, with the other castles which had been kept against the above prince, should be levelled with the ground. A part of the foundation was to be seen about the year 1740, on a high cliff, at the distance of about a mile from the mouth of Woodbridge river, and was one hundred and eighty seven yards in length, and nine feet thick. How much longer it was could not be known, part of the south end being washed away, and since that time the sea, which is daily gaining upon this coast, has swallowed up the remainder. There can be no doubt, but that Walton castle was a Roman fortification; this is evident from the great variety of Roman urns, rings, coins, and other antiquities that have been found there. It is thought to have been built by Constantine the Great, when he withdrew his legions from the frontier towns in the east of Britain, and built forts or castles to supply the want of them. The coins that have been lately taken up in this neighbourhood, are of the Vespasian and Antonine families; of Severus and his successor to Gordian the Third, and from Gallienus down to Arcadius and Honorius. This castle had  
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the privilege of coining money, several of the dies for that purpose having been found. This town had a market, granted by king Edward the First, in the year 1288; but though the market-cross is still standing, the market has been long disused.

Near Walton is TRIMLY ST. MARTIN, a village, in which is Grimston-hall, formerly the seat of Thomas Candish, or Cavendish, Esq; who was born here, and was the second Englishman that sailed round the globe; and there are here two ilexes still standing, said to have been planted by him. This gentleman inherited from his father a very fine estate, but having consumed the greatest part of it in the gaities of life, resolved to reimburse himself at the expence of the Spaniards, with whom the English were then at war. He accordingly fitted out three ships at his own expence; namely, the *Desire*, of one hundred and twenty tons burthen, the *Content*, of sixty tons, and the *Hugh Gallant*, a bark of forty tons; and had no more than one hundred and twenty-three hands, men and boys, on board. With this inconsiderable force, he sailed from Plymouth on the 21st of July, 1586, and in the February following, passed the streights of Magellan, and entered the South Seas, where he plundered and burnt the towns of Paita, Puna, Acapulco, Natividad, Acatlar, and several others on the coast of Chili and Peru. After this he attacked the *St. Anne*, a large Acapulco ship of seven hundred tons burthen, though he had before sunk his bark, for want of hands to man her, and it does not appear that the *Content* came up so as have any share in the engagement. In his own ship the *Desire*, he had not above sixty men, yet with these he attempted to board the *St. Anne*; and though he was twice repulsed, he, at the third

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attack, took her, with the loss of only two men killed, and five wounded; after which he set one hundred and ninety-one prisoners on shore, and brought off seven with him, to serve as pilots and linguists. In this prize he took one hundred and twenty-one thousand pezos of gold, each pezo being of the value of eight shillings, besides a great quantity of other rich merchandize. After this he touched at the Philippine islands, and returned home by the Cape of Good-Hope, after having encompassed the globe in the space of two years, one month and nineteen days, the shortest time, in which that important voyage had ever been performed. The success of this voyage encouraged our hero to make a second attempt with a larger force. Accordingly he departed from Plymouth with five ships, on the 26th of August, 1591, on a like expedition; but in this he met with unsurmountable difficulties, arising partly from the badness of the weather, and partly from the mutinous disposition of his men. Some authors observe, that after passing the streights of Magellan a second time, on the 20th of May, 1592, he was parted from his fleet in the night, and never heard of more; while others say, that after making several fruitless attempts to pass the above streights, he was obliged, with the utmost reluctance, to sail back, which gave him such concern, that he died at sea of a broken heart.

Four miles to the north-east of Trimly St. Martin is LEVINGTON, a village, in which was dug the first crag, or shells, that have been found so useful for improving the land about all the towns in this part of the county; for though the like manure has been long used in the west of England, it was not used here till about 1718, when one Edmund Edwards, covering a field with dung out of his yard, and wanting a load or two

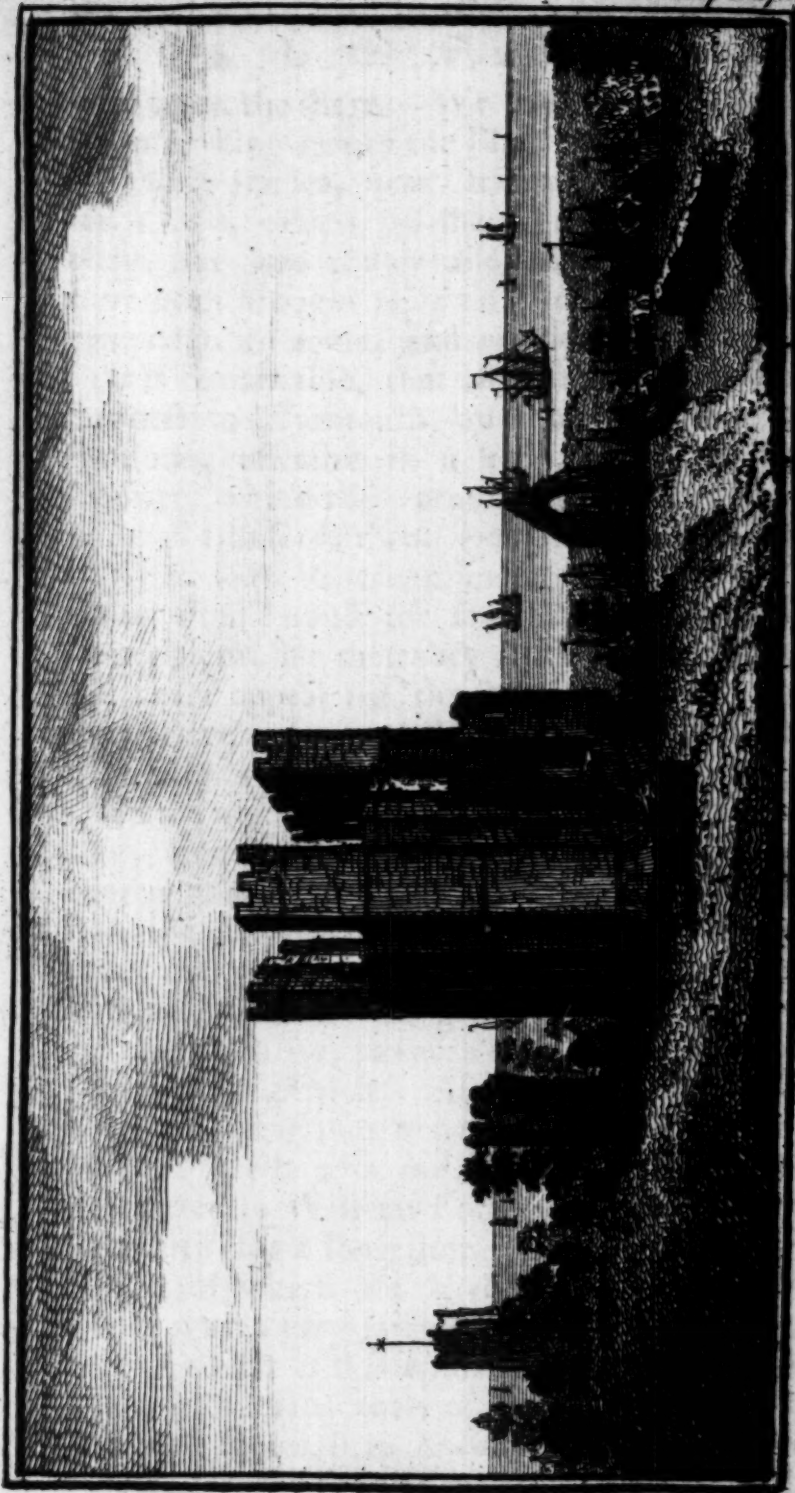
to finish it, carried some of the soil that lay near it, though it looked to him to be no better than sand; but observing the crop to be best where that was laid, he was encouraged to carry more of it the next year; and his success encouraged others to follow his example. This useful manure has been found in great plenty upon the sides of such vales, as may reasonably be supposed to have been washed by the sea, towards which such light shells might naturally be carried, says our author, either at Noah's flood, or by the force of the tides, to places since forsaken by the sea. Whoever, adds he, looks into any of these crag-pits, cannot but observe, that they lie layer upon layer; but when one considers that the wells in Trimly-street, which are above five feet deep, have their springs rising from these shells, we can no way account for their being so many feet under ground, but from the universal deluge.

At Levington is an alms-house for six poor persons of this parish and Nacton, built and endowed by Sir Robert Hitcham, who was a native of this place.

About a mile and a half to the north-east of Levington is NACTON, where the family of Fastolf were patrons. The late admiral Vernon made this parish the seat of his residence; and his nephew, to whom he left the bulk of his fortune, has, since his death, rebuilt the house, and inclosed with pales a piece of ground, which, from the beautiful river on which it stands, is called Orwell-park.

ORFORD is seated ten miles to the eastward of Woodbridge, and derives its name from a ford over the river Ore, near the mouth of which it stands. It is situated eighty-eight miles from London. It had a market in the reign of king Stephen; and was incorporated by king Henry the Third. It

is governed by a mayor, eight portmen, and twelve capital burgesses, and sends two members to parliament. There are here the remains of a castle, of which we have given a view ; but at what time it was built is uncertain ; the earliest account of it, is in the reign of king Henry the First, when Bartholomew Glanville was its governor. It was once the capital seat of Peter de la Valoines, and was lately in the possession of Pryce Devereux, lord viscount Hereford, whose executors sold it to the right honourable the earl of Hertford, who now possesses it. This town gives the title of earl to the lord Walpole. It has a small market on Mondays, for provisions, and two annual fairs, one on Midsummer-day, and the other on Shrove-Monday, for toys. This town had a charter, with great privileges, granted it by king Richard III. and was certainly a much larger place formerly than it is at present, as it sent three ships, and sixty-two men to the siege of Calais, in the year 1359 ; and besides its church, or rather parochial chapel, here was a chapel dedicated to St. John Baptist, and another to St. Leonard, which were standing since the year 1500 ; and there is also a piece of land on the north side of the town, now called St. John's Chapel-field. Here was also a priory of Augustin friars, begun about the twenty-third year of Edward the First. An hospital for a master and brethren, dedicated to St. Leonard, in the reign of king Edward the Second, and a chantry. Orford had formerly a good harbour, and the cause of the decay of the town seems to have been owing to the sea having been many years withdrawn from it. On a promontory called Orfordness, not far from the town, is a lighthouse for the direction of seamen sailing near the coast ; and this promontory is a good shelter for ships, when a north-east wind blows hard



*The West View of Orford Castle, in the County of Suffolk.*





hard upon the shore. We are told, that in the reign of king Henry the First, a kind of fish was caught in the sea, near Orfordness, by the fishermen's nets, which, in shape, resembled a human body, but was rough and hairy. It is said to have been brought alive on shore, but soon after escaped to sea again, and was never more heard of.

It is remarkable, that along the coast from Orfordness to Yarmouth, an incredible number of swallows, assemble in a body about the end of summer, where they wait for the first northerly wind to transport themselves out of Britain, probably to some warmer climate. They are sometimes wind-bound for several days; but it no sooner blows fair then they all take wing together, and never appear till the following spring, when they arrive here in vast bodies, and from hence distribute themselves all over Britain.

Three miles to the westward of Orford is BUTLEY, a village which had a small priory of Black canons of the order of St. Augustine, founded by Ranulph de Glanville, chief justice of England, about the year 1171. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and was given by pope Clement to cardinal Wolsey, towards building his colleges at Oxford and Ipswich. At the time of its dissolution, its annual revenue was found to be of the value of 318l. 17s. 2d. This priory was soon after given to William Forthe, in whose family it continued for a long time. The remains of this edifice, of which we have given a view, shew that it was a very large structure; and the gatehouse, which is still entire, and its front embellished with many coats of arms, handsomely cut in stone, shews it to have been a very magnificent building. It was repaired and beautified in an elegant manner by the late George Wright, Esq; and is now become a very handsome seat.

Five miles to the north-east of Orford is ALDBOROUGH, a town which received its name from the river Ald, which runs near the south end of it. It is pleasantly situated in a peninsula, called Slaughden valley, formed by the river on the west side, and the sea on the east. It consists only of two streets, near a mile in length, running parallel to each other; and the sea has, in the present century, swallowed up one whole street, which was parallel to the other two. The streets are clean, but the buildings in general are very mean. However, the church, which stands on a hill to the west of the town, makes a good appearance, and there is a quay on the river Ald. The harbour is defended by some pieces of cannon, and a good trade is carried on from hence in fish, particularly in soals, lobsters, and sprats. To the southward of the quay, there is a proper place for the drying of fish, for this is said to be the principal place in England, where they cure sprats in the manner of red-herrings. In the proper season they have what is called a fishing-fair, for mackarel and fresh fish. From this town a considerable quantity of corn is usually exported, and the inhabitants trade with Newcastle upon Tyne for coals. Aldborough is governed by two bailiffs, twelve capital burghesses, twenty-four inferior members, and sends two representatives to parliament. It has a market on Saturdays, with two fairs, held on the 1st of March, and the 3d of May, for toys.

About five miles to the north-west of Aldborough is SNAPE, a village, which had formerly a monastery of Black monks, founded in 1155, by William Martel, Alfred his wife, and Jeffery Martel their son. It was first made a cell to the abbey of St. John, in Colchester; but afterwards became, in a manner, independent, it paying only half

half a mark as an acknowledgment, but the abbot of Colchester might visit them twice a year, and stay there four days with twelve horses. King Henry the Eighth gave this monastery to the canons of Butley, but it was dissolved by the bull of pope Clement the Seventh, and given to cardinal Wolfey, and after his death was granted to Thomas, duke of Norfolk. At the dissolution, its revenues were valued at 99 l. 1 s. 11 d. a year. It was lately the estate of Sir Henry Johnson, and together with the manor, now belongs to the earl of Strafford.

SAXMUNDHAM is a small market town, two miles to the north of Snape, and eighty-seven north-east of London. It is seated on the banks of a small river, in the road from Ipswich to Yarmouth, and contains little remarkable. A chantry was founded here by Robert Swan, lord of the manor, about the year 1308, and it has a pretty good market on Thursdays, with a fair on Ascension-day, for toys.

Six miles to the westward of Saxmundham is PARHAM, which gave the title of baron to the late lord Willoughby, who was descended from the daughter of Robert de Ufford, earl of Suffolk, in the reign of king Edward the Second. In the year 1734, the bones of a man, an urn, and the head of a spear, were taken out of a gravel-pit, in a field called Friars Close, in this parish, and was supposed to have belonged to some Danish commander.

Four miles south-east of Saxmundham, and three miles to the north by east of Aldborough is LEISTON, a village which had formerly an abbey of Premonstratensian canons, founded by Ranulph Glanville, about the year 1183. The abbot, in the year 1312, obtained a charter for a market and a fair to be held here, but both of



them have been long disused. This abbey being probably decayed, and seated in an inconvenient place, another was erected at some distance from it by Robert de Ufford, earl of Suffolk, about the year 1363, and the canons removed thither. The new, as well as the old house, was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and endowed at the dissolution with the annual revenue of 18 l. 17 s. 1 d. It was granted, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, and was lately the estate of Daniel Harvey, Esq; from whom it came, with the manor of Leiston, to the honourable Elizabeth, the relict of Kelland Courtney, Esq; the grand-daughter of the right honourable the lady Anne Harvey.

Seven miles north-east of Saxmundham is DUNWICH, which was formerly a celebrated city, and a considerable sea-port; but is now a remarkable proof of the instability of all sublunary things, it being reduced to a poor inconsiderable place, governed by two bailiffs, who, for the time being, are of the quorum, and the succeeding year, justices of the peace; it has besides, a recorder, and inferior officers, and still sends two members to parliament, chosen by the townsmen who pay scot and lot.

With respect to antiquity, this place is supposed to vie with most others in the kingdom. It is thought to have been a station of the Romans, from Roman coins having been found in its neighbourhood; while others maintain that it was a British town, under the protection of the Romans. It is seated on a cliff forty feet high, and on the east and west of the town were raised ramparts of earth, fortified on the top with pallisades, and at the foot with a deep ditch, part of which, with the bank, is still to be seen. It was filled with handsome buildings, and particularly contained

tained the royal palaces of the kings of the East-Angles, and was the first episcopal see of that kingdom. Felix, the Burgundian bishop, whom Sigebert, king of the East-Angles, brought hither to revive the knowledge of Christianity, which his subjects had almost forgotten, fixed his episcopal see here, in the year 636. After him, three bishops enjoyed the see, and had jurisdiction over the whole kingdom of the East-Angles; but in the latter part of his third successor's time, the see was divided, and a bishop for the Norfolk part of that kingdom, being placed at Elmham, the bishop of Dunwich, or as it was then called, Domoc and Donmuc, had the Suffolk part only; after the division of the see, there are said to have sat eleven bishops at Dunwich; but about the year 820, or soon after, the troublesome times put a period to this bishopric, before it had lasted two hundred years.

When Domesday Book was made, this place paid 50*l.* or, in other words, fifty pounds weight of silver, to the king, and sixty thousand herrings. In the reign of king Henry the Second, it was a famous city, filled with great riches; and, it is said, that there was, for some time, a mint here. In the first year of the reign of king John, it had a charter of liberties, in which the burgeses, among other things, had the privilege of giving, selling, or otherwise disposing of their lands and houses, within the town, at pleasure. This charter cost the citizens three hundred marks, besides ten falcons, and five gir-falcons. In the reign of Richard the First, Dunwich was fined one thousand and sixty marks, Orford fifteen, Ipswich two hundred, and Yarmouth two hundred, for the unlawful practice of supplying the enemy with corn; which may give some insight into the trade of these towns at that time. On the north side  
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of the town was the entrance into the haven, which rendered Dunwich a place of great trade, and on the north side of it was erected a pier : the place which was part of the quay may be still known by the piles still standing.

There was formerly a market here every day, which dwindled, as the borough declined, to one on Saturdays, but even that has been quite disused for many years. It had also formerly two fairs, one called St. Leonard's, held on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of November, in St. Leonard's parish, but was probably laid aside on account of the destruction of the parish by the sea ; but St. James's fair is still kept in the street of that name, on St. James's day, and the day following, for toys.

Here were six, if not eight parish churches, namely, St. John's, which was a rectory, and seems to have been swallowed up by the sea about the year 1540. St. Martin's, St. Nicholas's, and St. Peter's, which were likewise rectories, and St. Leonard's, and All-Saints, which were impropriated. These, and all the other churches, were given, by Robert Mallet, to his priory at Eye, in the reign of William the Conqueror, and the prior and convent, presented to all the instituted churches, out of most of which they had portions of tithes, and they had all the revenues of the impropriated ones, but were obliged to find a secular priest to serve the cures. The register of Eye also mentions the churches of St. Michael and St. Batholomew, which were swallowed up by the sea before the year 1331.

Besides these parish churches, Weaver mentions three chapels dedicated to St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Catharine. Here was also the Temple church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. John Baptist, which probably belonged, first to the

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the westward, continue pretty firm, and have something curious in their workmanship, but are almost covered with ivy. The largest of these gates serve for the principal entrance to the house, the greatest part of which now lies in ruinous heaps ; but the part which remains is converted into a good tenement : here is a hall, in which are several apartments, where the affairs of the corporation are transacted, and the jail. The east front of this part of the building has been rebuilt with brick. The other monastery was for the Dominicans, or Preaching friars, and was founded by Sir Roger Holishe, knight. Both these monasteries had handsome churches belonging to them.

As the ruin of this town was principally owing to the incroachments of the sea from time to time, it will not be improper, to give here a more particular account of these dreadful devastations. It is observable, that the coast is here destitute of rocks, and the principal part of Dunwich being built on a hill, consisting of loam and sand of a loose texture, it is no wonder that the surges of the sea, beating against the foot of the precipice, easily undermined it. Gardner, in his historical account of Dunwich, observes, that one of the two carves of land, taxed in the reign of Edward the Confessor, was found to be swallowed up by the sea, at the time of the survey made by order of William the Conqueror. The church of St. Felix, and the cell of monks, were lost very early. In the first year of Edward the Third, the old port was rendered entirely useless, and before the twenty-third year of that king's reign, great part of the town, with upwards of four hundred houses, which paid rent to the fee-farm, with certain shops and windmills, were devoured  
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by the sea. After this, the church of St. Leonard was overthrown; and in the fourteenth century, the churches of St. Martin and St. Nicholas were also destroyed by the waves. In 1540, the church of St. John Baptist was taken down, and in the same centuries, the chapels of St. Anthony, St. Francis, and St. Catharine, were overthrown, with the South gate and Gilden gate, and not one quarter of the town left standing. In the reign of Charles the First, the foundation of the Temple buildings, yielded to the irresistible force of the undermining surges, and in 1677, the sea reached the market-place. In 1680, all the buildings, north of Maison Dieu lane, were demolished, and in 1702, the sea extended its dominion to St. Peter's church, on which it was divested of the lead, timber, bells and other materials, the walls only remaining, which tumbled over the cliff, as the water undermined them; and the town-hall suffered the same fate. In 1715 the jail was undermined, and in 1729, the farthest bounds of St. Peter's church-yard, fell into the sea.

In December, 1740, the wind blowing very hard from about the north-east, and continuing several days, occasioned terrible devastations; for a great deal of the cliffs were washed away, with the remains of St. Nicholas's church-yard, as also the great road which formerly led into the town. King's-holm, otherwise called Leonard's-marsh, which was then worth 100 l. a year, was laid under water, and has ever since been so covered, with shingles and sand, that it is now worth little. Besides, Cock and Hen hills, which the proceeding summer were upwards of forty feet high, had their heads levelled with their bases; and the foundation of St. Francis's chapel was discovered. Several skeletons appeared on the  
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the Ouse, some lying in pretty good order, and others scattered about by the waves. At the same time, near the chapel, were found the pipes of an ancient aqueduct, some of which were of lead, and others of a grey earth, like that of some urns.

SOUTHWOLD, or SOWOLD, is pleasantly seated on a hill, about four miles to the northward of Dunwich, and is almost surrounded by the sea and the river Blythe, which has a bridge that leads into the town. In 1747, an act passed for effectually cleansing and opening the haven of this place, which had been long choaked up with sand. On the east side of the town is a bay, called Solebay, that affords good anchorage, and is sheltered by a promontory about two miles farther south, called Easton-ness. Soleby was rendered memorable by a sharp engagement between the English and Dutch fleets, on the 28th of May, 1672, in which the earl of Sandwich lost his life. Here is besides the great Guildhall, another in the market-place, for the dispatch of petty-affairs, which with the church and other structures, afford an agreeable prospect, both by sea and land. On the cliff are two batteries, one of which is a regular fortification, with a good parapet, and six guns, that are eighteen pounders. The other has only two guns, which are nine pounders. On this hill, and several others that are near it, are the remains of a camp; and where the ground has not been broken up, there are tokens of circular tents, called by the people Fairy-hills, round which they suppose the fairies were wont to dance. Southwold was rendered a town corporate in the year 1489, and is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, and inferior officers. It is a pleasant, populous town, but sends no members to parliament.

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The first chapel was thought to have been built here in the reign of king John, but was destroyed by fire about two hundred and twenty years after its being erected. The present chapel was finished about the year 1460, and was afterwards made parochial. It is one hundred and forty-three feet in length, of which the chancel is forty-three, and the tower twenty, and it is fifty-six feet broad. The cieling of the chancel was handsomely painted, and the painting over the skreen in the nave is very fresh. Every pew was decorated with the representations of birds, beasts, satyrs, and the like; but these suffered greatly in the reign of Henry the Eighth. The tower is above one hundred feet high, and is a handsome piece of architecture, composed of free-stone, intermixed with flints of various colours. There is here a meeting-house of protestant dissenters, of the denomination of independants. The entrance into the haven, is on the south side of the town, but was subject to be choaked up, till an act of parliament was passed, as we have already observed, for repairing and improving it, and for erecting piers for its security: accordingly, one pier was built on the north side of the port in 1749, and another on the south in 1752. When the free British fishery began to be established in 1740, the Pelham and Carteret buffes arrived in this harbour from Shetland, and in 1751 buildings and conveniences began to be erected for the making and tanning of nets, and depositing stores; two docks were also made, and many other improvements, so that in 1753, no less than thirty-eight buffes sailed from this port. The other trade of this place consists in the home fishery, which employs fifteen small boats, and here they make and refine salt, prepare and export red herrings, red sprats, malt, and corn; and

and import coals, cinders, and the like. The inhabitants likewise carry on a coasting trade, in wool, corn, timber, and lime. Southwold has a tolerable weekly market on Thursdays, indifferently served with provisions, and two fairs, held on Trinity-Monday, and the 24th of August, for toys.

Southwold was at first a small place, consisting only of a few fishermens huts, but in proportion as they succeeded, they built houses for themselves, and at length became rivals to Dunwich and the other neighbouring towns.

Henry the Seventh made this town a free borough, and ordered it to be governed by the above-mentioned officers. This town had several benefactions from that king and his son Henry the Eighth, which enabled the merchants to fit out upwards of fifty vessels, and these they employed abroad in the cod fishery, while the industry of those employed on the coast, in catching herrings and other fish, was also very conducive to the improvement of the town; but when Henry the Eighth shook off the pope's supremacy, the fishery began to decline, though the inhabitants still carried it on, and at the same time engaged in the trade of corn, malt, timber, coals, butter, and cheese.

On the 25th of April, 1659, there happened a dreadful fire at Southwold, which, in the space of four hours, consumed the town-hall, market-house, prison, granaries, warehouses, and two hundred and thirty-eight dwelling houses, besides the fish houses, tackle houses, and other out-houses; and the greatest part of the moveable goods, nets, and tackle of the inhabitants, with all their corn, fish, coals, and other commodities; the loss of which amounted to upwards of 40,000 l. an immense sum at that time, and ruined above  
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three hundred families. This disaster obliged many to seek for habitations in other places, inso-much that the town, which was in a flourishing condition before this dreadful calamity, never recovered its former splendour; and ever since the bailiffs have been chosen by the populace, and only allowed 5l. a year to support their office; nor do they wear gowns, or any other marks of distinction. All the court baron rolls have been destroyed, by which means the copyholders of the corporation are become freeholders. There is, however, still a great resort of mariners to this town, and it carries on a considerable trade.

BLITHBOROUGH, or BLITHBURGH, now a mean village, is seated four miles to the west of Southwold, on the river Blith, and gives name to the hundred. It has a bridge over the river, and is a thoroughfare from Dunwich to Southwold, and from Ipswich to Beccles. Its origin is uncertain, but it must have been of great antiquity, because several urns have been found here, with Roman coins. They were discovered by men that were digging up the old foundations, to clear the ground after a fire, in 1670; and we are told by Camden, and almost all our historians, that Anna, king of the East-Angles, and Ferminus his son, who were slain in fighting against Penda, king of the Mercians, in the year 654, or 655, were buried here; but it may be doubted whether the tomb now shewn here for king Anna's be really his, for the present church is certainly a modern structure. The body of Ferminus was afterwards removed to St. Edmundsbury. That this town has been in a flourishing state, appears from its stately church, Holy-rood chapel, and other buildings. It has been the residence of merchants, and before the river was choaked up it had a considerable fishery. The sessions for the  
division



feſſions for the diſiſion of Beccles was formerly held here, and John de Clavering, who was lord of the manor, obtained a grant for a weekly market on Mondays, and two annual fairs; one on the eve and feaſt day of the Annunciation, and the other on the eve and day of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. Here was a priory of Black canons, a cell to the abbey of St. Oſith in Eſſex, founded in the reign of Henry the Firſt, and valued at the diſſolution at 48l. 8 s. 10 d. This was granted, by king Henry the Eighth, to Sir Arthur Hopton, knight, then lord of the manor, and conſiderable remains of it are ſtanding near the church. Holy-rood chapel was on the north ſide of the main ſtreet, where ſome remains of the walls are ſtill ſtanding; and on the ſouth ſide of Blithburg was Weſtwood, which in proceſs of time was made a park, and is now called the Grove. Here ſtood the manſion houſe of the lords of the manor. The church is a curious building, though very old; the windows are numerous, and were once extremely beautiful, as appears by the remains of the painted glaſs. They were adorned with many coats of arms, and the roof was painted and gilt. The church is one hundred and twenty-ſeven feet in length, and fifty-four feet two inches in breadth; and both within and without is adorned with various decorations. In Stow's annals is an account of a terrible thunder ſtorm, which happened here on Sunday the 4th of Auguſt, 1577, in the time of divine ſervice, when the lightening damaged the church, ſtruck down and ſcorched ſeveral perſons, and killed a man and a boy.

Blithburgh fell to decay upon the ſuppreſſion of the priory, and gradually decreaſed till the year 1679, when there was a dreadful fire, in which the loſs was computed to amount to 1803 l. on which

which many of the inhabitants, not thinking it worth while to rebuild their houses, settled elsewhere. There is, however, still a fair at this village, on the 5th of April, for toys.

Six miles south-west of Blithburgh is SIBTON, a village, in which William de Casineto, or Cheny, founded a Cistercian abbey, about the year 1150, and dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin. Its revenues were valued at the dissolution at 250 l. 15 s. 7 d. and granted by the abbot and convent themselves, to Thomas, duke of Norfolk, Anthony Rouse, Esq; and Nicholas Hare. It is at present a good old house, and with the manor belongs to Charles Scrivener, Esq;

WALDESWICK, which is seated about a mile and a half south-west of Southwold, is a very ancient village, and was once a considerable and populous place; this appears from the spaciousness of the church, which was built at the expence of the inhabitants, who had a great trade in butter and cheese, to London and other parts of the kingdom. The elder church, though thatched, was adorned with images, and accommodated with an organ. It was taken down in 1473, and a new church erected by the inhabitants, on a fine eminence, and at their own expence; this was a handsome structure, dedicated to St. Andrew. It had two isles, and in it was a chapel of Our Lady, and the images of the Trinity, the Virgin Mary, St. Andrew, St. John, St. James, and several others; and it had also two altars and an organ. Within a few years after, another isle was added, and it had many curious devices on the walls of the outside. The roof was covered with lead, and each isle parted from the nave by seven arches and six pillars neatly wrought. The steeple was upwards of ninety feet high, and adorned with eight pinnacles; but in 1696, the greatest part of

of the church was taken down, and reduced to very small dimensions, probably to save the charge of repairs.

RAYDON, a village near two miles north-west of Southwold, had formerly a market, and a park. The church, which is of great antiquity, is a very ordinary structure, consisting only of one isle, and there are some signs of a wharf yet remaining, which probably fell to decay about Henry the Third's time, through want of trade, which then flourished at Southwold. Here was a priory of Cluniac monks, said to have been founded before the year 1160, by Doudo Asini, steward to the king's household, and was a cell to Thetford in Norfolk. According to some writers, it was dedicated to St. Mary, but according to others to St. Peter and St. Paul; and at the suppression had a yearly revenue of 30 l. 9 s. 4 d.

END of the EIGHTH VOLUME.



